



July 7, 2025

Mayor Mrakas and Members of Council,

At the June 10th Committee of the Whole, a Delegate asked for the Town to officially oppose both Ontario Bill 5 and 17 officially. At the June 16th Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee, which I Chair, the Committee highlighted Provincial Bill 5 and its potential to negatively impact the environment, through amending and/or repealing the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and the Environmental Assessment Act.

The Special Meeting of Council scheduled for July 15, 2025, is timely and will allow Council to publicly discuss and debate these Bills and formulate a measured Aurora response for consideration. It is what diligent Councils do for their municipalities.

Ontario Bill 5 “Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025” achieved third reading and Royal Assent on June 5th after only a 49-day journey through the legislature when a closure motion on June 3 curtailed further debate, streamlining the process to final approval. While legally enacted, municipal resistance, accompanied by environmental groups, have raised questions aimed at challenging or modifying this legislation. Municipal concerns have been identified from the Bill's provisions to reduce regulatory barriers, expedite development, and centralize provincial authority remain. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) expressed cautious support for Bill 5's goal to speed up development, provided municipalities have meaningful input on Special Economic Zones (SEZ). In its May 26 submission, AMO urged that SEZ's override local bylaws **only** with host municipal support and **only** in extraordinary circumstances, and insisted on preserving environmental protections, including species-at-risk safeguards, and upholding Indigenous rights. AMO's position, urges care to ensure local voices and ecological responsibilities aren't sidelined, nor undermines our Official Plan.

Ontario Bill 17, called the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*, is narrowly focused on construction standards and amends the Building Code Act to centralize authority for all building performance regulations at the provincial level. The Bill was sent directly to third reading without committee or public hearings, with minimal debate or stakeholder input. From introduction (May 12) to becoming law (June 5), Bill 17 advanced through all legislative stages in just 24 days. It received Royal Assent before the public consultation period had closed, underscoring its unusually swift and streamlined passage. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has stated in their submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario that, *'While we are supportive of efforts to standardize and streamline planning to help drive development, careful consideration needs to be given to the changes made under Bill 17 and proposed for further consultation . 'AMO looks forward to collaborating with the province to help bring municipal stakeholders and perspectives forward during consultation'*. Municipal issues remain, such as undermining environmental protections for endangered species, the

tree canopy and flood resistance. It also threatens accessibility standards by preventing municipalities from requiring enhanced accessible building standards.

Advocacy for a balanced approach is needed that respects local governance and ensures that rapid growth does not come at the expense of livable, resilient, and accessible communities that respect heritage in both the built form and the environment. In Aurora we want to make things happen rather than watch or wonder what happened.

A Special Meeting of Council is being held on July 15th to discuss the implications of these Bills on our municipality and formulate a measured response that reflects our Council's commitment to controlled growth, accessibility and environmental and heritage protection that relies on made-in-Aurora solutions. To do otherwise would abdicate Council's responsibility to our residents by meekly accepting terms of these two important Bills that affect us without comment.

Sincerely,

Councillor Ron Weese
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