



Bill 66 - Death of the Greenbelt

The following letter was sent to Patti Foley's newsletter Just Saying Caledon by Debbe Crandall, Caledon resident and former Executive Director of STORM (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine) Coalition.

I've reprinted here since hikers and non-hikers alike should be aware of what our new provincial government is proposing.

Hi fellow Caledon neighbours and friends:

You've likely been hearing buzz about the Ford government's Bill 66. While the wording of Schedule 10 of this Bill (basically an open-for-business by-law) sounds innocuous, in fact it gives sweeping powers to municipalities and developers to override decades-worth of gains on environmental protection and public consultation, not to speak of the duty to consult First Nations on planning decisions.

Ostensibly, it is to create jobs and economic growth however there is speculation that it was introduced to appease those developers who had been promised by Doug Ford during the campaign that he would open up the Greenbelt for development. His speech had been videotaped and shared widely, resulting in a hasty retreat and mea culpa about protecting the Greenbelt. Empty words

If Bill 66 is passed, critical protections for water, wildlife and greenspace that are in the Planning Act, the Greenbelt Act, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the Great Lakes Protection Act, the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, the Clean Water Act and other legislation are in danger of being lost.

But the public won't know because the by-law process and approval would be done behind a curtain of secrecy and would not be subject to the same appeals process as other planning matters.

The entire Greater Golden Horseshoe ENGO community is mobilizing at the regional and local levels. It would be amazing if each of us who cares about due process and protecting those things important to us, could take actions to let each other and our elected representatives know that Bill 66, Schedule 10, is not good policy and that municipal councils should stand up to Doug Ford and declare that they will NOT evoke Schedule 10 at any time in the future and furthermore for Caledon Council to pass a resolution to that effect.

- Please pass this email along to your network (attached is CELA's detailed analysis and a template of a municipal resolution)
- Please call your local and regional councillors and Mayor Thompson to request that they pledge NOT to support Schedule 10.
- Send a letter to provincial leaders to voice your opposition to Section 10 of Bill 66 [Join me in urging the government not to privilege big business over the people of Ontario](#)

Environmental Defence will have a STOP Bill 66 website up in the new year so there will be lots of materials and resources.

In the meantime, happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

[Bill 66 Resolution Template](#)

[Annotated Excerpts – Canadian Environmental Law Association explains Bill 66](#)

[Bill 66 Caledon Environment Greenbelt Schedule 10](#)

(photo credit: Laura Strachan)
