



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

May 16, 2025

Heritage Policy and Programs
400 University Ave
5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2R9
Canada

Re: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025
ERO number-025-0418: Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act,
Schedule 7 of the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Township of Amaranth, in Dufferin County, located on the north-western boundary of the GTA, we appreciate the challenges faced by all levels of government as we work together to counter the trade difficulties created by the current US imposed tariffs. As an agricultural community, we must continue to find markets that will sufficiently compensate our farmers for their grains, oilseeds, beef and other products to cover the high cost of inputs in this new environment. Amaranth is home to many dairy and egg producers who rely on maintaining our current supply management system. As Amaranth and Dufferin County is located in an area that has manufacturing and warehousing for many products related to the automotive industry, our residents will be directly impacted by the tariff impacts of this trade war.

However, our focus must extend well beyond the boundaries of our local area. We must look to the future to ensure that our plans to meet these current challenges do not handicap us for the conditions of tomorrow. Ontario has resources that many places around the world need but we must also move forward with caution. Protection of our environment is essential and must not be circumvented in the interest of immediate economic growth. The following sections of Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 are of particular concern to the Council of the Township of Amaranth and our residents:

Implementation of Special Economic Zones Act - Across the province, efforts continue to improve and expediate planning, permitting and approvals both at the provincial and municipal level. The proposed legislation will eliminate or greatly reduce local context, leaving these designated areas vulnerable to rushed development and uncontrolled land



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development instead of strategic development under local guidance and care. Environmental concerns will not be addressed nor monitored appropriately, leaving areas exposed to possible contamination and permanent damage.

Amendments to Environmental Assessment Act and Mining Act – Removal of requirements for environmental assessments from mine operations such as Eagle's Nest Mine and from waste disposal sites such as Chatham-Kent again leave the areas at risk of permanent contamination, destroyed landscapes and limited future opportunities. It is important to honour the rights of our indigenous population with consultation and acknowledgment of their agreements and our obligations.

Implementation of Species Conservation Act, 2025 – Changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and implementation of the Species Conservation Act, 2025 weakens and removes species protection as listed through Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) in order to allow the fast tracking of development in the pursuit of economic growth. This impacts the vibrant and flourishing natural environment that is important to the future of Ontario and its population.

As we all work together to maintain and enhance our great province, we must envision an Ontario that will provide a natural environment with protected resources that can support the population with clean water, good soil and economic stability for many generations into the future.

King Regards,

Chris Gerrits
Mayor – Township of Amaranth