

To: Environmental Registry of Ontario

Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025

ERO number 025-0380

Act Endangered Species Act , R.S.O. 2007

Posted by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Comment Date: May 17, 2025

Submission: personal

I am against the proposed interim changes outlined in the ERO registry and pending in the omnibus Bill 5 regarding the Endangered Species Act's protection laws.

The Endangered Species Act of 2007 was heralded as the best in Canada. The Act's Preamble summarizes the importance for Species at Risk – see yellow highlights below. The last summary sentence states “the people of Ontario should protect species at risk for future generations”.

The Conservative government cannot just replace this act stating economic reasons and that the process is too slow. The act was created to protect the habitat of endangered species – the #1 reason a species is endangered is because their habitat was destroyed. The recovery programs help ensure ecosystems are healthy for the species.

To scrap the act and tell developers to go ahead before a permit is supplied is unlawful, reckless, and mostly irresponsible. A responsible and ethical government understands that arriving at the best land use decisions requires collaboration, understanding, and a commitment to negotiate in good faith. The current government is taking a lazy, combative approach when they simply need to work within the laws in place and together arrive at solutions.

Many organizations are crying foul with the proposed Bill 5. Their responses will better detail all the scientific and legal aspects. I am deeply concerned about the effect of rapid growth, quick solutions provided by urban sprawl into our natural areas, wetlands, greenbelts. There are many solutions – look to Europe and other responsible governments and businesses.

Our natural resources is Ontario's greatest asset, and this includes all living species. Please do not accept this request for change.

Endangered Species Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 6

Preamble:

Biological diversity is among the great treasures of our planet. It has ecological, social, economic, cultural and intrinsic value. Biological diversity makes many essential contributions to human life, including foods, clothing and medicines, and is an important part of sustainable social and economic development.

Unfortunately, throughout the world, species of animals, plants and other organisms are being lost forever at an alarming rate. The loss of these species is most often due to human activities, especially activities that damage the habitats of these species. Global action is required.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity takes note of the precautionary principle, which, as described in the Convention, states that, where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.

In Ontario, our native species are a vital component of our precious natural heritage. The people of Ontario wish to do their part in protecting species that are at risk, with appropriate regard to social, economic and cultural considerations. The present generation of Ontarians should protect species at risk for future generations.