

Special Economic Zones Act, 2025

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Posted by Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

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I am against this proposal of a Special Economic Zone Act. It will grant a “lawless” zone where any relevant provincial or municipal laws can be circumvented by the Ontario legislature if they deem it to be limiting and standing in the way. The checks and balances are overridden – cabinets’ or ministers’ powers are not accountable.

The “new terms” are to be defined later. It is unconstitutional and irresponsible to state the terms can be defined later, at the whim of cabinets’ or a minister’s call.

Protecting our environment, our natural resources, making changes to reduce the effects of climate change disaster could justify the use of such a bill overriding others – but this one is going the other way, contributing to reduction of our natural resources – using the defence to offset the US tariffs with a carte blanche approach, anything is prime for the taking.

Under Schedule 9, the cabinet can hand out exemptions to any person or company, with no qualification. Any location can be selected – a home, a farm, a provincial park. Is this a democratic and responsible approach. What are the potentials for incompetence or corruption?

Our natural resources is Ontario’s greatest asset – the legislature should be guarding it like a bank. Please do not accept this request for a Special Economic Zones Act.