

TERCOT[®]

COMMUNITIES

May 16, 2025

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Energy and Mines
77 Grenville Street, 10th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1**

Dear Minister Lecce,

Re: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025

On behalf of Tercot Communities, we write to express our support for Bill 5, the **Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025**. Specifically, we strongly support the proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007, as well as the proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025.

Although we recognize the importance of supporting the natural environment, the current regulatory framework can be overly complex, slow and unpredictable. This has proven to be detrimental to the construction of much needed housing across the province, particularly as we face a national housing crisis. The proposed legislation would accelerate provincial permitting and approvals, which would facilitate the advancement of projects in a more efficient and cost-effective manner, all while enhancing Ontario's biodiversity and conservation efforts.

We look forward to seeing the implementation of these changes, as they represent a critical step in modernizing the province's approach to species conservation, while also supporting economic growth.

Sincerely,

Filipe M. Dias

Filipe Dias, Director, Development
Tercot Communities