

To: Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Cc. Hon. MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy

I am writing as a concerned Ontario resident about the combined impact of changes proposed under Bill 100, forest management planning changes under ERO 026-0109, and landfill approval changes under ERO 026-0414.

These proposals may seem like efforts to improve efficiency but they point to a continued shift that reduces transparency, limits public input, and weakens environmental oversight at a time when we should be doing the opposite to address climate change.

In forest management, expanding planning areas and reducing reporting makes it harder to understand what is really happening on the ground. Forests only help reduce emissions if they are carefully monitored over time. When carbon is released through logging or wildfires, it takes decades to recover. Without clear and accessible information, it is difficult for the public or Indigenous communities to know whether our forests are helping or harming our climate goals.

In the waste sector, removing environmental screening, public posting, and appeal rights for landfill changes reduces accountability. It also makes it more likely that landfill expansion becomes the default option instead of focusing on waste reduction and diversion. Landfills are a major source of methane emissions, which are especially harmful in the near term. Expanding landfill capacity without stronger diversion efforts risks increasing emissions for decades.

Changes proposed under Bill 100 raise similar concerns. Environmental assessments are one of the main ways we ensure that projects consider long term environmental and climate impacts before they move ahead. Reducing opportunities for review, public input, and independent oversight makes it harder to catch problems early and build public trust in decisions.

I understand the need to improve timelines and reduce duplication. However, many have pointed out that delays are often caused by poor coordination between levels of government, not by environmental protections themselves. Improving coordination would be a better solution than reducing transparency or limiting participation.

Across all three proposals, the concern is the same. We are losing the tools that help us measure impacts, understand long term consequences, and ensure decisions are made in the public interest.

I respectfully ask that the Province maintain strong environmental oversight, protect opportunities for public and Indigenous participation, and ensure that decisions are supported by clear and accessible information. These are not barriers to progress. They are what allow good decisions to stand the test of time.

The decisions being made today will shape the environment our children grow up in and inherit. Their future depends on choices that are transparent, accountable, and grounded in protecting both people and the planet.

Sincerely,