



27 Victoria Avenue
Unionville ON L3R 1R8

4 June 2013

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

Please be advised that the Unionville Villagers Association, Markham, Ontario, recently passed a unanimous motion in support of private member's Bill 41.

As you are no doubt aware, Bill 41 would limit slightly the powers of the Ontario Municipal Board. Under the Places to Grow act and its related policies, the OMB's role has taken on greater importance than ever in the GTHA and in other growing parts of the province. Having recently been Party to an OMB hearing it is abundantly clear that the OMB is broken. It is inaccessible to individuals and communities, and its members are not experts or even necessarily lawyers. Yet it acts like a court and makes unaccountable, undemocratic decisions that have massive effects on the shape of our communities as they grow today that will continue to be felt for centuries into the future.

Of course it is not clear what alternatives should be considered, from abolition to minor adjustments, such as Bill 41 suggests. But by moving Bill 41 to committee a fulsome public inquiry and debate can be facilitated. A legislative committee could commission research into how the types of issues dealt with by the OMB are managed in other jurisdictions and what best practice looks like. Experts in the field could be called to testify.

Madam Premier, I was glad to hear that second reading of Bill 41 was supported by an all-party majority of MPPs. But I am also aware that the development industry is already lobbying against it. Bill 41 must proceed to committee where the development industry can put its cards on the table publicly instead of in the hallways of Queen's Park. I

would hope too that this issue can be dealt with in a non-partisan way. There is nothing inherently left, centre or right-wing about development, good planning and democracy. I am cc'ing the leaders of the two opposition parties in hopes that they too will take this position.

I'm sure the provincial legislature has a full plate of issues to deal with. But I can think of few that might have greater or longer term impacts than anything that will help improve the quality of the urban planning in Ontario. I encourage you to expedite the consideration of Bill 41 in committee.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reid McAlpine', written in a cursive style.

Reid McAlpine
President
Unionville Villagers Association
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c.c.

Glen Murray, MPP, Minister of Infrastructure
John Gerretson, MPP, Attorney General
Linda Jeffery, MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Tim Hudak, MPP, Leader of the Opposition
Andrea Horwath, MPP, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Frank Klees, MPP
Michael Chan, MPP