



Ontario Association of Architects

January 18, 2019

Via E-mail

The Honourable Todd Smith, MPP  
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
College Park 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1S5

Dear Minister:

As you are likely aware, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is the self-regulating body for the profession of Architecture in Ontario, dedicated to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skills and proficiency of its members. The OAA also governs the practice of architecture and administers the *Architects Act* in Ontario in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

The OAA has long been committed to working with government and other stakeholders, and it is for that reason that I write to you today. The OAA is pleased to see the restoration of design exclusions to the *Planning Act*, provided that an open-for-business planning by-law is passed under Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*. The OAA appreciates this forward thinking change, but stresses that design exclusions must unconditionally be restored to the *Planning Act* itself in the near future.

Although the OAA does appreciate the restoration of design exclusions under Bill 66, there is concern amongst members that the province should not be facilitating the exemption of development from a variety of environmental protections under Bill 66. The *Greenbelt Act*, *Clean Water Act*, *Oak Ridges Moraine Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* are all critically important pieces of legislation. Not only do they protect the health of Ontario citizens and the environment, but they also ensure that these resources will survive for many years. Protecting these invaluable resources will ensure that Ontario's economy and people can prosper for generations to come.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act* and please do not hesitate to contact the OAA about these issues or anything else moving forward, as we remain a ready and willing resource for you and your Ministry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John K. Stephenson', written in a cursive style.

John K. Stephenson, Architect  
OAA, FRAIC  
President

