



Legislative Services
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Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of June 24, 2025
Member Motion 7.2 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario
by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025;
and**

**Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic
governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity;
and**

**Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the
power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and**

**Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability
to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and**

**Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental
assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could
result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term
effects on communities; and**

**Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water
resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and
undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and**

**Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement
opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local
planning decisions;**

1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:**
 - **Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;**
 - **Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;**
 - **Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;**
 - **Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;**
 - **Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and**
2. **Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*

Main motion as amended

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

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Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

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Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

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- Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
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Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 0)