

Queen's Park Office  
Main Legislative Building, Unit 451  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

416 325.4664  
mschreiner@ola.org



Mike Schreiner, MPP  
Guelph

Guelph Constituency Office  
173 Woolwich Unit 102  
Guelph, ON N1H 3V4

519.836.4190  
mschreiner-co@ola.org

Hon. Min. Jeff Yurek  
Ministry of Environment  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Queen's Park

April 9, 2020

Dear Minister Yurek,

I am writing to express my concern about the Government of Ontario's decision to temporarily exempt all ministries from the minimum 30-day consultation requirement to post proposals for acts, regulations, policies and instruments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Public notification and consultation is a key component of any healthy democracy. The Environmental Bill of Rights plays an essential role in providing the public with an opportunity to comment and engage in important policy decisions. While I appreciate that we are facing an unprecedented crisis, we cannot sacrifice public oversight of environmental and climate decisions that affect public health and safety, quality of life, and stewardship of resources and communities.

The additional authority granted to the Government under the state of emergency should be exercised with extreme caution and cannot compromise public trust in government decisions. With respect to the suspension of normal ERO proceedings, these exemptions should only apply if they are relevant to our timely response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I request that the Ministry clarify why it has taken this step and reassure the public that these exemptions will not be used to irresponsibly move forward major projects that deserve proper oversight and public input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Schreiner".

Mike Schreiner  
MPP, Guelph

Cc. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario