

seven persons, and debilitating (and in many cases, persistent) illnesses in thousands of other residents after drinking contaminated municipal water.

Other concerns Council has about *Bill 66* include its impact on agricultural land. Food security was identified as priority in the recent *Lanark County Vital Signs* report that provided a community “check-up” by measuring the vitality of the County and identifying significant trends in a range of areas significant to quality of life.

Council also expressed concern about the potential for *Bill 66* to degrade the ecosystem services – such as filtering air and water pollution, providing drinking water, reducing climate change, etc. – provided by the Greenbelt protected areas (including the Oak Ridges Moraine, etc.). The ecosystem services provided by the Greenbelt extend to eastern Ontario as well as southern Ontario (e.g., reduced air pollution).

Tay Valley Council is committed to openness and transparency in government. Council is concerned that *Bill 66* proposes to allow a Council to pass an “open for business” by-law without public notice or consultation and that the by-law cannot subsequently be appealed to the Local Planning Area Tribunal.

Finally, Council suggests that if streamlining job-creating projects is the goal of *Bill 66*, there are other ways of achieving that goal. The provincial government could explore changes to the Environmental Compliance Approvals process to reduce the review time for projects (e.g., the approval required for a septic system greater than 10,000l/day). Currently a Professional Engineer provides a design to the Ministry of Environment to be approved and 8 months to a year later, a Ministry staff Professional Engineer approves the design. Why not simply accept the qualifications of the Professional Engineer who designed the system and issue an approval?

Council also suggests that the government consider extending similar streamlining procedures to affordable housing development projects to address the housing crisis afflicting millennials, seniors and homeless residents of Ontario.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Noelle Reeve MCIP, RPP
Planner