Dear Conservation Authorities,

I am one of your biggest fans!! I tell everyone about the wonderful work that you do to keep us safe and to protect our drinking water. I know you are patrolling flood waters at night, while the rest of us sleep peacefully in our beds.

I am always surprised that so few people know that Ontario is the only province lucky enough to have Conservation Authorities – the only province to have experts like you, with decades of experience and knowledge, to make our homes and cities safer. Many thanks for all that you do, on a daily basis.

I know that the provincial government has made a terrible mistake in limiting your oversight, your permitting regulations, your advice to municipalities. Flooding, erosion, lack of clean drinking water are only a few of the risks that citizens now face as a result of Premier Ford's decision to reduce your capabilities. I also know that writing to the provincial ministers is a waste of time as they will blindly follow where Ford leads.

Consequently, I ask you to please write to the members of the Federal government, both local MPs and Ministers, such as Steven Guilbault, to request their intervention in Ford's decisions. The federal government is responsible for the protection of endangered species and of fish habitat (both of which are now threatened by Ford's new regulations) so they have the moral obligation AND the legal jurisdiction to repeal Bill 23 and its adjacent rules, e.g. the gutting of the Greenbelt. Also, OWES originated as a joint Federal-Ontario project so the fact that it will now be misused by selfproclaimed experts should be of grave concern to Federal government officials. The Environment and Climate Change are also part of Minister Guilbault's portfolio.

There are many reasons that the Federal government should intervene swiftly to stop unsafe developments, **especially in view of the climate crisis**. I am sure you can write very convincing, comprehensive letters to members of the federal government to request their immediate interference with Ford's plans to put the province in jeopardy. We must escalate the issues at this point. Write to PM Trudeau! I'm sure you have seen the new television commercials and Facebook ads where the Feds tout the value of wetlands and grasslands. If they are earnest in this appeal, they must intervene.

Sorry for the length of this e-mail. I live in Dundas, just below the Ancaster Hill and we already see evidence of development in the area around the airport. Trees are being clear cut and there is no plan to preserve any natural features; it is all about \$\$\$'s. There is an urgency here as trees have already been razed and excavators are on site.

Thank you for all that you have done and will do in the future to stem the destruction of our natural heritage.

Regards, Marie Covert