

# Vermilion River Stewardship



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12 January 2019

Mayor Brian Bigger and City Council  
City of Greater Sudbury  
P.O. Box 5000, Station A  
200 Brady Street  
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

By Email: [Mayor@GreaterSudbury.ca](mailto:Mayor@GreaterSudbury.ca)  
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Re: Bill 66 – Restoring Ontario’s Competitiveness Act, 2018 - ERO 013-4239  
Proposed open-for-business planning tool – ERO 013-4125  
New Regulation under the Planning Act – open-for-business planning tool – ERO 013-4239

Dear Mayor Bigger and City Council:

The Vermilion River Stewardship (VRS) is writing to respectfully request that Mayor and Council formally pass a resolution to reject the Ontario government’s proposed Bill 66 (Bill), Restoring Ontario’s Competitiveness Act, 2018.

This ill-conceived Bill, and associated Environmental Registry postings, propose to enable municipalities to attract large-scale economic development by passing “open-for-business planning by-laws” under the Planning Act. If enacted, these municipal by-laws would require the prior approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing but would not be subject to public notice, comment or appeal provisions which are currently mandatory under the Planning Act. In addition, these by-laws would exempt application of key parts of important provincial laws, plans and policies, including:

- Section 39 of the Clean Water Act, 2006
- Section 20 of the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015
- Section 7 of the Greenbelt Act, 2005
- Section 6 of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008, and
- Section 7 of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2003.

*As stated in a Planning Services Division report, dated 24 December 2018, "The proposed open for business by-law appears to prioritize economic goals and objectives to the exclusion of environmental, social and other goals and objectives. This is inconsistent with the more holistic and sustainable position adopted by City Council in the Official Plan. The proposed framework to formulate and approve an open for business by-law appears inconsistent with City Council's approach to community engagement and public consultation."*

We must have both sustainable development and a healthy environment. We all want safe, healthy and resilient communities, so it is important that we protect our freshwater and groundwater resources, our farmland and the environment.

It is crucial that we reject Bill 66, as risky development decisions made in this jurisdiction or adjacent municipalities could have negative impacts on Sudbury's air, land and/or water, as well as the Great Lakes and many other highly valued ecosystems. Being "Open for Business" is a good thing, unless it is at the expense of public health and safety or the environment.

VRS encourages Mayor Bigger and City Council to join the growing list of regions and cities demonstrating formal opposition to Bill 66, i.e., the Region of Waterloo, York Region, and the cities of Hamilton, Guelph, Barrie, Aurora and Burlington, to formally reject Bill 66 before the 20 January 2019 comment deadline.

In the event this Bill passes, VRS requests that our Mayor and Council make a formal resolution/motion to oppose Bill 66 and commit to rejecting any such by-law within the City of Greater Sudbury.

VRS is also in strong support of the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury's 11 January 2019 submission to Mayor and Council regarding Bill 66.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Linda Heron  
Chair, Vermilion River Stewardship

Cc: Clerk, City of Sudbury