



Notice of Motion

Submitted By: Councillor Ryan

Introduction Date: June 26, 2025

Consideration Date: July 24, 2025

Subject Matter: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

Whereas Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*, (Hereafter, “the Act”) received Royal Assent on June 5th, 2025;

And whereas the Act amends several statutes, including the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, with the effect of reducing environmental and biodiversity protections and exempting companies and projects within “Special Economic Zones” from having to comply with any provincial law, provincial regulation or municipal by-law;

And whereas Erin has a beautiful and unique geographic position in the headwaters and within the Greenbelt, green space and agricultural lands that are natural green assets and Bill 5 threatens the protection of our green spaces and water systems by taking authority away from the local municipalities;

And whereas Erin has adopted a new corporate strategic plan that includes environmental responsibility and protection and the adoption of green community standards as part of the Town’s mandate, and Bill 5 has the potential to seriously impact the Town’s ability to follow through on its commitment to our constituents;

And whereas green heritage and water resources are valuable assets and resources for the Town of Erin, and cannot and should not be separated from economic development or housing development.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Erin requests the Government of Ontario remove the elements of Bill 5 that reduce

environmental protections, reduce protections for species at risk, and reduce legal protection from bad faith actors in special economic zones;

And that Council urges the provincial government to further define Special Economic Zones and their purpose with more clarity and ensure that activities within such zones are equally subject to the local and provincial laws that support all Ontario and First Nations peoples and foster our social, cultural and environmental prosperity;

And that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to local and area MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), and to Wellington County and its member municipalities.