



22 January 2019

Town of Huntsville Council via Tanya Calleja, Clerk
Town of Huntsville
37 Main Street East
Huntsville ON P1H 1A1
By email: Tanya.Calleja@huntsville.ca

Dear Mayor Aitchison and Councillors,

As you are likely aware the Ontario government announced Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*, in December. Bill 66 is touted by the Ontario government as streamlining the approvals process for development applications that seek to create 50+ jobs in smaller municipalities and 100+ in larger cities.

On the surface this sounds positive, however, Bill 66 allows municipalities to pass an "open for business" planning by-law that would exempt the proposed development from needing to conform to protective measures in key provincial acts and restrictions in Local Official Plans. In addition, public notification would not be given until after the by-law is passed, no public consultation would be required, and there would be no right of appeal to the LPAT (Local Planning Advisory Tribunal).

The "open for business" by-law described in Schedule 10 of Bill 66 bypasses sound provincial regulations designed to protect health, safety, prime agricultural land and natural heritage.

For these reasons we request that The Town of Huntsville protect our environment and health by not participating in Bill 66. Remember that in Muskoka the environment is the economy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Peden".

Mary Ann Peden, President

cc.

LOBA Board of Directors
LOBA members (via Newsflash)
Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound – Muskoka
Carrie Sykes, Clerk, Township of Lake of Bays