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Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

May 15, 2017

<u>Attention:</u> Peter Z. Milczyn Chair, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
<u>Re:</u> Bill 127, Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017

Dear Mr. Milczyn,

On behalf of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), and our 50,000 member families I am compelled to comment on the above-mentioned Bill currently before Committee.

FOCA is an incorporated non-profit organization that represents over 500 waterfront property owners' groups, and for over 50 years, FOCA has spoken on behalf of, and supported, Ontario's 250,000 waterfront property-owning families.

Our concern with the Bill is specifically about the interpretation and possible implications of Schedule 23, and specifically the unfortunate confusion with hydraulic fracturing. Given the significant potential risks to human and ecological health from fracking, it would be inappropriate to unwittingly authorize this activity while attempting to make accommodation for another purpose (to allow for compressed air energy storage).

Though we understand that in 2016 the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) committed to extensive public consultation before authorizing hydraulic fracturing, we believe some clarification is needed in Bill 127.

We agree with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, in that if the government does not intend these changes to apply to high-volume hydraulic fracturing, the easiest way to avoid misinterpretation would be to expressly provide that the permitting authority in Schedule 23 does not apply to fracking — as the Act does for carbon dioxide sequestration in section 11(1.1)

We hope this input proves useful.

Terry Rees, Executive Director
on behalf of Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.
#201 - 159 King St., Peterborough, Ontario K9J 2R8

Some of FOCA's posted information about hydraulic fracturing can be found here:
https://foca.on.ca/quebec-report-fracking-not-worth-risk/