



**Ontario**  
Home Builders' Association

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October 2, 2017

MPP Peter Tabuns  
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy  
Room 165, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5

**RE: Appropriate consultation through province-wide Public Hearings for:  
Bill 139, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017**

Bill 139, *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* represents the fourth time the Province has proposed substantive amendments to the scope, powers and function of the OMB since 2003. The currently proposed legislative amendments are however the most far reaching and significant set of changes to Ontario's land use planning appeals process that have been brought forward in decades. The proposed legislative changes will have considerable implications for the new home building and land development industry as well as our municipal partners and for communities experiencing growth across Ontario from Windsor to Ottawa and Fort Erie to Thunder Bay. It is therefore critical to the legislative and democratic process that members of the public, municipalities and other stakeholders in communities across Ontario have the opportunity to directly address the Standing Committee on Social Policy with respect to this important piece of Legislation.

The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) continues to support the essential role of the OMB as an impartial, evidence-based, administrative tribunal that is responsible for handling appeals of land use planning disputes. In this administrative authority, the OMB has served to ensure that provincial land use policies and objectives are achieved, and that municipalities employ consistency in the application and implementation of the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act*, the Provincial Policy Statement and other related land use legislation. While OHBA supports modernization of the appeals process and will bring forward a number of suggested legislative amendments to the Standing Committee, we do not believe that the stated goals of the provincial government for the proposed legislation will be achieved through Bill 139 and the LPAT, as currently proposed.

OHBA strongly recommends that the Standing Committee of Social Policy travel outside of Toronto to directly hear the views of Ontarians beyond the GTA. As members of the Standing Committee know, land-use planning issues and disputes differ in our diverse communities across the province and the voices from other communities should be heard. OHBA requests that the Standing Committee on Social Policy schedule public hearings in Ottawa, in SW Ontario, in Central Ontario and in Northern Ontario as well as at Queen's Park in Toronto.

OHBA looks forward to submitting our recommendations to improve Bill 139 to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and for the members of the committee to hear a diversity of viewpoints from a range of different communities across Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Vaccaro'.

Joe Vaccaro

CEO

Ontario Home Builders' Association

c. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Policy  
c. Clerk, Jocelyn McCauley