



March 25, 2018

Attention: Jocelyn McCauley, Clerk
Standing Committee on Social Policy
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Clarification Regarding OSPE's Position on Bill 139, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017

Members of the Committee:

As the voice of the engineering profession in Ontario OSPE supports more than 80,000 professional engineers and 250,000 engineering graduates, interns, and students. OSPE advocates for important public policy issues that affect engineers and society.

In October 2017, OSPE provided input regarding Bill 139, *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act* to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. Upon further consultation, OSPE has determined that a number of stakeholders may have misunderstood our position on Bill 139 – this letter is intended to clarify OSPE's perspective.

First and foremost, OSPE wishes to recognize the important role that Conservation Authorities (CA) play in supporting a safe and sustainable province for the benefit of all Ontarians. CAs are also home to some of Ontario's most prominent engineering talent – boasting sizable engineering departments that work to protect Ontario's communities from erosion, flooding and other hazards. OSPE sincerely thanks CA engineers for their contributions to the profession and their unwavering commitment to protect the public interest.

On the issue of fees, OSPE acknowledges that it is unfair to suggest that all CAs charge fees to municipalities for stormwater and other maintenance permits. To be clear, this issue exists on a case-by-base basis and is not accurately described as a universal problem.

Regarding Low Impact Development (LID), it should be noted that this is not entirely the jurisdiction of Bill 139. Engineering issues regarding LID are more appropriately addressed in relation to the Ontario Water Resources Act and OSPE will direct our attention to that legislation.

OSPE continues to recognize the need to strengthen and improve Ontario's existing land use planning system and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to its ongoing development and clarify our position on Bill 139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Jonathan Hack, P.Eng.
President & Chair
The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandro Perruzza". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large, prominent initial "S".

Sandro Perruzza
Chief Executive Officer
The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers