

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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January 24, 2019

Dear Head of Council:

On June 7, 2018 the people of Ontario set a clear agenda for our government – they elected a government that believes in transparency and accountability for the people, they wanted a government that prioritizes fiscal responsibility and they wanted a government that would clean up the regulatory environment and make Ontario open for business.

As you know, we recently introduced Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. Included in the legislation, were proposed changes to the *Planning Act* that would create a new economic development tool, the open-for-business planning by-law. The tool would be available to all local municipalities to ensure they can act quickly to attract businesses seeking development sites by streamlining land use planning approvals.

The use of this tool would never have been approved at the expense of the Greenbelt or other provincial interests like water quality or public health and safety. Our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan committed to strong enforcement action to protect our lakes, waterways and groundwater from pollution. We will build on the ministry's monitoring and drinking water source protection activities.

That said, our Government for the People has listened to the concerns raised by MPP's, municipalities and stakeholders with regards to Schedule 10 of Bill 66 and when the legislature returns in February, we will not proceed with Schedule 10 of the Bill.

For a copy of Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 and to monitor the status of the Bill through the legislative process, please visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website: www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark
Minister