



Catherine Fife
MPP Kitchener-Waterloo

Queen's Park Office
Room 363, Main Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A5 Tel:
416-325-6913 | Fax: 416-325-6942
Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

Community Office
22 King Street South, Unit 401,
Waterloo, ON N2J 1N9
Tel: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
Email: cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

John Jackson
Grand River Environmental Network
619 Forest Hill Drive
Kitchener, ON, N2N 1A1

March 11th, 2014
QUEEN'S PARK

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Thank you for contacting my office with your concerns regarding the current bills before the legislature that you refer to in your letter: Bill 6, Bill 83, Bill 91 and Bill 138. It is good to hear from you and I welcome your comments.

I agree that these pieces of legislation involve issues of vital importance to our province, and I share your concern about the pace of their progress through the legislative process.

As you know, New Democrats have been advocating for anti-SLAAP legislation for many years. In 2008, our leader, Andrea Horwath, introduced Bill 138, the Protection of Public Participation Act to encourage more participation in public debate without fear of legal repercussion. Although there was a Liberal majority government at that time, the bill did not pass. New Democrats support Bill 83 and agree that action is long overdue.

In recent months, progress on Bill 83, the Protection of Public Participation Act, has been limited because the government has allowed only five days of debate since June, 2013. The government controls the agenda of the Assembly and needs to call the bill for debate again in order for it to pass Second Reading.

With respect to Bill 6, the Great Lakes Protection Act, I am also concerned by the lack of action that we have seen by the government on this bill. The importance of the Great Lakes to our province cannot be overstated. Their protection is vital to the health of our communities.

Bill 6 is currently under consideration by a Committee of the Legislature. New Democrats are working with our colleagues and stakeholders to pass necessary amendments to the legislation and to refer it back to the Assembly for final approval. As you know, Bill 6 was introduced more

than a year ago. It has taken far too long for the government to refer this bill to Committee – and now, unfortunately, rather than continue working on this bill at committee, the government voted with the Conservatives to begin hearings on another bill.

As for Bill 91, the Waste Reduction Act, the government could call it for a vote at any time. I can guarantee that New Democrats want to see the bill moved to committee as soon as possible and will support the bill when it is called for a vote. ✓

Bill 138, the Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act, has not been called for second reading yet, thus there has not been any debate. We believe that all bills deserve due consideration and, as such, we hope that the government will call Bill 138 for a second reading as soon as possible.

The government controls the legislative schedule and therefore, the sluggish pace at which these issues are addressed is not an indication of any lack of support from New Democrats. Rest assured that I, and my colleagues in the Ontario NDP caucus, will continue to support these bills and their passage through the legislature.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fife, MPP
Kitchener-Waterloo

Thanks for taking the time
to write & share your concerns!
C.