



March 6, 2014

Attorney General John Gerretsen
Government House Leader John Milloy
Official Opposition House Leader Jim Wilson
PC Caucus Attorney General Critic Julia Munro
NDP House Leader Gilles Bisson
NDP Attorney General Critic Jagmeet Singh

Dear Minister Gerretsen, Mr. Milloy, Mr. Wilson, Ms Munro, Mr. Bisson, and Mr. Singh:

I am writing concerning Bill 83, *Protection for Public Participation Act, 2013* which, as you are aware, was introduced by the government in June 2013.

The bill is intended to discourage litigation that is brought for the sole purpose of stifling public debate and passing this bill is therefore in the public interest.

The Ontario Bar Association has long called for this type of legislation and Bill 83 very closely reflects the recommendations our organization made in a written submission to the government's blue-ribbon panel tasked with studying the need for the legislation. This submission was prepared with extensive input from the Environmental, Civil Litigation, Municipal, and International Law Sections of the OBA.

It is the view of the OBA that Bill 83 has at this time received a good amount of debate at Second Reading and it is now appropriate for the bill to continue its legislative journey and progress to committee where it can receive additional and detailed scrutiny.

On behalf of the more than 15,000 practising lawyers who are members of the Ontario Bar Association, I respectfully urge you at this time to allow the bill to proceed to committee for further review.

Yours truly,

David Sterns,
Ontario Bar Association