



### How to submit a comment on Bill 17

Ontario's <u>Bill 17 has become law</u>. But the devil is in the details. Let's make sure the details are as favourable as possible to local green building policies. **What follows is an in-depth guide on how to submit a comment and some ideas about what you can include.** 

Taking a few minutes to submit a comment through this government portal could have big impacts on limiting the worst parts of Bill 17. The deadline is June 26th. Thank you for working to help protect local communities and the climate!

# Step-by-step submission guide

 Go to this Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) page: https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0462



#### 2. Click on "Submit a comment"





# **SAFE CITIES**

#### 3. Click on "Comment without registering" (on the bottom right)

### Submit a comment

You can choose to sign in, register for an account or submit a comment anonymously.

Log in	Register for an account
Email *	<ul> <li>Follow consultations and receive custom notifications</li> <li>Easily keep track of your comments</li> <li>Include attachments with your comments</li> </ul>
Password *	Register for an account
Password "	
	Comment without registering
Forgot your password?	You don't need an account to submit a comment, Skip the registration process and provide your feedback anonymously.
Log in	Comment without registering

4. Write your message in the comment box (see our suggested key messages below)

#### Submit a comment

Share your thoughts on this proposal in the comment box below. You can include links and attachments to support your key points. We will publish all approved comments and supporting material with the decision notice.

Your privacy is important to us. **We will not publish your comment if it includes any identifying information, like names, addresses or phone numbers.** 

Comment *			
			11



## **SAFE CITIES**

5. Click on "Submit your comment" (at the bottom of the page)

I'm commenting: \*

on my own behalf

on behalf of my client (e.g. as a lawyer or consultant)

Submit your comment Preview your comment

That's it! Your comments will be considered and included in a public report. One last thing – if you're able, please shoot an email to action@stand.earth with the subject line "I commented on Bill 17" so we know how many folks took action.

Either way, here's a kitten saying thank you!



# Suggested key messages

Please feel free to enter your own thoughts about why it's important for local governments to be able to protect their communities against pollution and climate change. This consultation is specifically about the ability of municipalities to require reports to meet their Green Development Standards. Municipalities need to be able to request studies to ensure that builders are following their green building rules which make homes more sustainable, more resilient to extreme weather, and more affordable to heat and cool.

You can also use some of the key messages we've put together with our allies:



## **SAFE CITIES**

- I strongly urge you to allow municipalities to continue requiring and using all reports/studies needed to meet their Green Development Standards (GDS).
- Municipalities are using GDS to improve health and safety in new homes, lower the
  energy bills of residents, reduce infrastructure costs, prevent municipal property taxes
  from increasing, lower demand on our energy systems, and cut emissions.
- Bill 17 would negatively impact municipalities' ability to implement GDS, limiting their capacity to ensure that new development is built quickly, is energy-efficient, weather-proof, and affordable over the long term.
- GDS reduce red tape and standardize planning processes, resulting in long-term predictability that housing developers need to succeed.
- GDS consolidate preexisting sustainability-related planning requirements into a single document with clear expectations.
- As a result, GDS accelerate rather than slow housing development.
- Based on the Ontario municipalities benchmarked by the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA), all of the cities with a GDS have made progress in accelerating approval timelines, while all of the cities without a GDS have seen timelines get slower.
- Regulations related to Bill 17 must be in compliance with other powers and authorities granted to municipalities to avoid confusion and delays for future developments.
- The province must respect municipalities' responsibilities as outlined in the Planning Act and the Provincial Planning Statement. These include the protection of public health and safety, the economic well-being of the province and municipalities, the minimization of waste, and the promotion of sustainable development.
- Meeting these responsibilities requires that municipalities are able to implement GDS which necessitates studies from builders to ensure they are meeting the standards.
- Please maintain municipal authorities, including the ability to require necessary reports, to ensure that new development delivers on health, safety, resiliency, and long-term affordability for Ontarians while reducing red tape.