

1 DECEMBER, 2025

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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SALMON ARM STATION MAIN, BC V1E 4N7

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
C/O PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OFFICE
ROOM 224, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4 CANADA



Dear Select Standing Committee,

Re: Opposition to Bill M216-2025

On behalf of the Southern Interior Local Government Association membership, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Bill M216-2025, currently under review. While we recognise the bill's intent, we have significant concerns about its impact on our communities and their local governments. Bill M216-2025 would undermine local autonomy and our ability to address residents' unique needs. Our association represents diverse municipalities and regional districts, each with distinct challenges needing flexible, responsive policies. The proposed bill enforces a one-size-fits-all approach, disregarding local expertise and self-determination. Under the current process, local government can work with development applicants and address concerns that are specific to our regions' unique needs.

If Bill M216-2025 becomes law, the process of appealing decisions to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Guidance becomes far more onerous. More than 75% of BC communities have populations of under 20,000; this comes with capacity issues to appeal, leading to further rural/urban divides.

Of additional concern are the liability risks associated with the bill's deregulatory measures. By removing local government oversight and peer review, the legislation would expose local governments, taxpayers, and development professionals to increased legal and financial risk. We urge you to reconsider Bill M216-2025 and instead engage in meaningful dialogue with local leaders to develop solutions that respect local authority and promote collaboration. The Southern Interior Local Government Association stands ready to work with you to achieve policy goals in ways that strengthen, rather than hinder, our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request that the Committee take decisive action to oppose Bill M216-2025 and work with local governments to develop inclusive, sustainable policies that honour local autonomy.

Sincerely,
Louise Wallace Richmond

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President, Southern Interior Local Government Association

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