



September 10, 2020

Leo Luong  
Manager, Water Policy  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
40 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, ON  
M4V1M2

**Re: Proposal to extend the current moratorium on water bottling permits (ERO #019-2319)**

Dear Mr. Luong,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal to extend the current moratorium on the issuance of new or increasing permits to take water for water bottling in Ontario. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities who recognize that water security during times of drought, and sustainable water resources overall, are vital to a healthy economy. These comments are not intended to limit consideration of comments shared individually by conservation authorities.

Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposed amendment to Ontario Regulation 463/16 to allow for an additional extension to the moratorium for up to six months, to April 1, 2021. The proposed extension to the moratorium will allow the Ministry additional time to thoroughly review and consider feedback received on the proposed enhancements to Ontario's water taking program, as well as allow for further consultation with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities on how best to implement the proposed enhancements before the moratorium ends. Conservation Ontario provided comments dated July 31, 2020 on "Updating Ontario's Water Quantity Management Framework" (ERO#019-1340), which were generally supportive of the Ministry's proposals and included some additional considerations for enhancement of Ontario's water taking program.

As outlined in the extension proposal, and further to the draft Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, it is assumed that the outcomes of this analysis/review will protect the quality and quantity of our water and ensure sustainable management of water resources and water security for future generations. This will require the use of sound science to inform water policy

and program decisions. Your careful consideration of our July 31, 2020 comments in this regard is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal to extend the current moratorium on the issuance of new or increasing permits to take water for water bottling in Ontario. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact myself at 905-717-2008 or Deborah Balika at 905-251-2802.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Fox  
Manager, Policy and Planning

cc. All CA CAOs/GMs