

February 25, 2022

Minister David Piccini
5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

RE: ERO Posting 019-4995, Conservation Agreement Proposal

Minister Piccini,

I want to thank you and your staff for your work in strongly representing Ontario in this conservation agreement (CA) process.

I am writing you today regarding ERO posting **019-4995**, *Conservation Agreement Proposal*. I support a workable agreement that ensures the best outcome for the citizens of Ontario. However, the framework provided in the registry posting is not a finalized agreement. I, therefore, ask that you consult with the forest industry, regulated professionals, directly impacted stakeholders, and Indigenous communities on the details of a finalized CA before signing.

Working with Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNRF), and Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO) colleagues, MECP must address the following:

- 1) Prioritize caribou range boundary review before implementing other conservation actions.
- 2) Clearly define key legal terms, such as “recovery” and “self-sustaining”.
- 3) Recognition of management for all forest values, i.e., social, economic, and environmental. While an important consideration, I do not believe Ontario’s forests should be managed solely to support boreal caribou.
- 4) MECP must clearly outline and demonstrate that the working forest landscape and wood supply to mills will not be impacted because of expanded parks or protected areas.
- 5) Incorporate the impacts of a changing climate on boreal caribou habitat.

Most importantly, the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) needs to respect provincial species at risk frameworks, including Ontario’s *Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA)* and *Endangered Species Act (ESA)*. Ontario already has effective legislation to protect species at risk while balancing other forest values, there is no need for further action by the federal government.

A weak agreement that does not update current caribou administrative boundaries and endorses the federal definition of “self-sustaining” has the potential to devastate my company, my small community and northern Ontario as a whole. We are looking to you and your government to ensure that the final agreement addresses these concerns in collaboration with the forest industry.

I strongly encourage your government to work with the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) and act on their constructive recommendations provided in their submission.

Sincerely,



Shawn Lahiae
Lahaie Lumber Ltd.

CC Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry