



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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November 2, 2023

Species at Risk Branch - Species at Risk Recovery Section
300 Water Street
North Tower, 5th floor
Peterborough, ON
K9J 3C7
Submitted via email: recovery.planning@ontario.ca

Re: Protecting Black Ash and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act, 2007

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback on the proposed regulations under the Endangered Species Act. We appreciate the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks' commitment to working with partners and providing us the opportunity to comment on the protection strategy for Black Ash.

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) represents 37 municipalities across Northwestern Ontario. NOMA is a non-profit organization that acts as a unified voice to advocate on behalf of the best interest of municipalities across our vast region.

NOMA works closely with the Ontario Forestry Industries Association Forestry (OFIA) and trust in their expertise on this matter. We are in full support of the comments submitted by the OFIA in response to the Black Ash Protection Strategy (Please see their comments attached).

NOMA would like to stress that the chosen strategy should avoid any socio-economic impacts. Forestry is an important economic driver for Northwestern Ontario and any actions that negatively affect forestry practices should be avoided in our region.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Executive Director, Andrea Strawson at 807-683-6662 or admin@noma.on.ca or you may contact Sarah Todgham at OFIA who can be reached at 519-933-1231 or stodgham@ofia.com.

We appreciate your time on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

Wendy Landry, President, NOMA
Mayor, Municipality of Shuniah