I am contacting you as a representative of the Shawano Rate Payers Inc and we would like to make comments regarding Statement of Environmental Values of the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. We are an incorporated rate payer’s association representing the residents of Dickey Lake, Lake of Islands, Lost Lake and Perch Lake in the Municipality of Marmora and Lake. There are 230 property tax paying households with 460 voters within our area who are extremely concerned with development Mineral Exploration and the potential of Mineral Extraction in Central Hastings and Eastern Ontario as a whole. The Shawano Rate Payers is also working with our neighboring Lake Associations, in Limerick, Tudor and Cashel, Wollaston Townships as well as the Municipality of Marmora and Lake. (Steenburg Lake, Limerick Waterways, Wollaston Lake, Thanet Lake and Sweets Lake). Together this group of Lake Associations represents 1,000 property tax paying households and approximately 2,000 voters. The Lake Associations are concerned regarding the environmental impact of the McBride Exploration Project and potential Mineral Extraction in Limerick Township.

Our concerns are related to the Environmental Impact of the Exploration Process and potential Mineral Extraction during there life spans and after. The concerns would be as follows:

* Damage and contamination of the Water Table and Lake Water during the life of these projects and after the projects have been completed. The lakes are where most of our residents get their water supply.
* Air pollution caused by the Exploration and Mining processes.
* Noise pollution during the Exploration Process and potential Mineral Extraction.
* The potential for the failure of Tailing Containment after the Mineral Extraction process has been completed.

The Statement of Environmental Values does not seem to provide protection for the above concerns. There is no commitment to Environmental Sustainability and the protection of the rights of the citizens of Ontario to a Healthy Environment. Also, there seems to be a large amount of leeway given to the ministry to make interpretations based on the governments stance of being “Open for Business” to the detriment of Environmental Concerns. We would urge to strengthen the Environmental Protection for the current and future citizens of Ontario and not place the burden environmental protection and cleanup with the taxpayers of Ontario.