



December 17, 2019

Shari Sookhoo
Environmental Policy Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
40 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 10
Toronto Ontario, M4V 1M2

Re: Proposal to extend the current moratorium on water bottling permits (ERO #019-0913)

Dear Shari Sookhoo,

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 to October 1, 2020. The proposed extension to the moratorium will allow for finalization of the Ministry's analysis of water resources in Ontario and the effect of takings, as well as allow time for public consultation on changes to how the Province manages water takings.

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 water use and water security for future generations. This will require the use of sound science to inform water policy and program decisions.

To meet this new moratorium deadline, the Ministry is encouraged to effectively engage the provincial Water Quantity Protection External Working Group which was formed to support the province in better understanding water resource science and in reviewing current policy and programs.

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 extension 223 or Chitra Gowda (Source Water Protection Lead) at extension 225.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Fox
Manager, Policy and Planning

cc. All CA CAOs/GMs