



February 26, 2014

Mr. Terry Rees
Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association
201 - 159 King Street
Peterborough ON K9J 2R8
trees@foca.on.ca

Dear Mr. Rees:

Invasive species are a serious threat to Ontario's economy and our environment, costing tens of millions of dollars each year. Once established, invasive species can be extremely difficult and expensive to control, and the impacts on the natural environment are often irreversible.

Today, I was pleased to introduce the proposed Invasive Species Act in the Ontario Legislature. The goal of this proposed legislation is to support the prevention, early detection, rapid response and eradication of invasive species in the province. We have issued a [news release](#) regarding this announcement.

With the introduction of our proposed legislation, Ontario is taking strong action to address the ecological and economic threats that invasive species pose to our natural environment. If the bill is passed, Ontario will be the first and only jurisdiction in Canada with stand-alone invasive species legislation.

A broad range of stakeholders have expressed support for stronger action to address invasive species. This proposed legislation builds on the 2012 Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan, and feedback received on a discussion paper my ministry issued last summer.

I welcome your input on the proposed legislation, which will be posted on the Environmental Registry (Ontario.ca/EBR, #012-1120) later this week. Please consider reading and commenting on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Oraziotti'.

David Oraziotti
Minister of Natural Resources