Township of Hornepayne

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Hornepayne, Ontario

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**January 18, 2020**

Joe Maure

Forest Sector Strategy - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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Sault Ste Marie , ON

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Canada

Submitted Online Via the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-0880)

**Re: Support for Ontario’s Forest Sector Strategy, ERO# 019-0880**

Mr. Maure,

As the Mayor of **Hornepayne, a small community that depends on forestry in the North,** thank you for the opportunity to comment on *Ontario’s Forest Sector Strategy,* Environmental Registry of Ontario number 019-0880. Hornepayne Power and Hornepayne Power are vital to the success of Hornepayne and the Province for we need inclusion in the **“Open for Business”. We need to support our wood industry and align our initiatives for the industry and communities to succeed.** I am writing to you today to express support for this proposal.

Hornepayne is pleased with efforts that the Provincial Government is taking in addressing issues that have plagued the forestry industry for the past several decades. We are hopeful that this Draft Strategy will succeed if its implementation aligns itself with the vision while encompassing the four pillars.

Hornepayne is mindful of our major employer’s concerns and we are diligently working with them to find solutions. One such challenge is employee retention. In Northern Ontario, attracting and retaining employees is a major issue that will directly impact the success of this strategy if not properly addressed.

The MNRF should take pride in the document they have created.

Through the development and implementation of a Forest Sector Strategy, Ontario has committed to positioning itself as a leading forestry jurisdiction within Canada. **A healthy and sustainable forest industry will strengthen northern and rural communities across Ontario. Increasing available wood supply, making strategic investments in the forest access roads funding program, and ensuring free and open access to American markets is critically important, and it is imperative for our province to get it right for the health of our industries, but more importantly our citizens.**

A pre-requisite for a successful Forest Sector Strategy is a permanent solution to the duplication between the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). I am pleased to see that MNRF is actively addressing this item, and I am very supportive of ERO# 019-1020, *Proposed Changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.*

Ontario and the MNRF embarked on similar strategies, red tape reduction initiatives, and process streamlining in the past. Some excellent documents and recommendations were developed as a result; however, not enough focus was placed on the implementation or roll-out of these strategies. As a result, systematic and cultural change within the Ministry was never achieved. On page 32 of the draft strategy, MNRF identifies the development of an implementation plan. **This is an essential path forward, ensuring our best chance of success, and something I support. We need a dynamic advisory committee to ensure that the Forest Sector Strategy is implemented successfully.**

The forest sector is an important part of Ontario’s history and critical to the future of business and community. I would like to thank the Ontario Government and the MNRF for their leadership on this file and look forward to reviewing the finalized strategy.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Fort

Mayor

Township of Hornepayne

#lovewhereyoulive

CC Minister John Yakabuski, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

 Minister Jeff Yurek, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Jamie Lim, President & CEO, Ontario Forest Industries Association