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January 14, 2020

Joe Maure
Forest Sector Strategy - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
70 Foster Drive, Suite 610
Sault Ste Marie , ON
P6A 6V5
Canada

Submitted Online Via the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

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

Mr. Maure,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*, Environmental Registry of Ontario number 019-0880.

As the Crown Agency responsible for sustainable forest management in Algonquin Provincial Park, the Algonquin Forestry Authority encounters many of the same challenges faced by forest managers across Ontario. I am writing to you today on behalf of the AFA Board of Directors and senior staff to express support for this proposal.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) vision of establishing Ontario's forest sector as a world leader in producing and selling forest products from renewable, sustainable and responsibly managed forests is an ambitious one. The draft includes five key principles and four pillars of action related to putting more wood to work, improving cost competitiveness, fostering innovation, and promoting stewardship and sustainability. The MNRF can 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.

We are pleased to see that MNRF is proposing a permanent solution to the duplication between the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We fully support ERO# 019-1020, *Proposed Changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act*.

The draft strategy identifies the development of an implementation plan. We can't overstate our endorsement of the importance of the roll-out of these strategies as an essential path forward.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lemkay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Lemkay, Chair
Algonquin Forestry Authority Board of Directors

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