



November 7, 2021

Public Input Coordinator
Species at Risk Branch
300 Water Street, 5th Floor, North tower
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

Re: Minister's Order for temporary suspension of protection upon the listing of Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act

Dear Ms. Pitt,

The [Ontario Mining Association](#) (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Minister's Order for temporary suspension of protection upon the listing of Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act: [ERO 019-4278](#). Committed to improving the competitiveness of the mining sector in Ontario since our establishment in 1920, the OMA currently represents over 80 members engaged in environmentally responsible mineral production and processing, as well as suppliers, contractors, environmental consultants, and others involved in the sector. OMA members are found throughout the province and are dedicated to transforming Ontario's mineral resources into prosperity and sustainable growth for local communities, while remaining competitive in global markets

Given that black ash is a prolific tree on OMA members' sites, our members already implement ongoing mitigation strategies to protect black ash, and we would like to continue working with government and other stakeholders to ensure proper measures are put in place to protect these trees. We agree that the management and protection of this species should be carefully articulated and applied – the OMA would like to participate in the development of the strategy on how to further protect this specie. We appreciate the ongoing consultation the government recently held as it relates to black ash, and that our comments from our previous submission on the [Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario's annual report on species assessments](#) were taken into consideration while developing the present proposal.

In regards to black ash and other species at risk in Ontario, OMA members remain committed to conservation and recovery, and we applaud the government's efforts to make improvements to the systems currently in place. We welcome further opportunities to work with you to ensure that the proposed refinements produce effective tools for protecting black ash, while encouraging growth in responsible mining.

Sincerely,

Aynsley Foss
Ontario Mining Association
Issues and Policy Manager