



Tracey Ramsey
Member of Parliament
Essex

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October 24, 2017

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing today regarding the health of our Great Lakes specifically in my riding of Essex that is surrounded by Lake Erie, and Lake St. Clair. The health and vitality of our Great Lakes are instrumental to having sustained economic growth on every level in our region.

I believe that we need to work diligently with representatives from every level of government to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystems for future generations.

Recently, I held a roundtable with local municipalities and an active scientist/researcher from the University of Windsor who expressed clearly the need to cooperate and work collaboratively to protect the Great Lakes.

The presence of Algal Blooms in Lake Erie is very alarming to many people in my riding in Essex, and specifically to the town of Colchester whose beach was shut down to the public on September 25, 2017. The Colchester Beach was shut down for the whole week due to the fact that Blue-Green algae blooms are described as bacteria that can produce a toxin which is severally harmful to swimmers, boaters and animals.

There are also numerous people who fish and boat recreationally reporting with grave concern the large algal bloom that is floating out in the lake, with the potential to shift to shore.

Therefore, I am writing to seek a local briefing on the health of the Great Lakes. I am also extending an invitation to you to attend this local briefing. I urge you to initiate a long term study and an assessment plan to address the existing fragile ecosystems of our Great Lakes.

Further devastation to our Great Lakes could ruin these precious waters for generations to come and we must take immediate actions to avoid additional harm and contamination.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this significant and serious matter. I look forward to your response with the hope that we can work collaboratively to reach a positive outcome.

Sincerely,

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

Tracey Ramsey, MP

Essex

Cc: Warden and Deputy Warden, County of Essex
Mayor and Council, Town of Essex
Mayor and Council, Town of LaSalle
Mayor of Council, Town of Kingsville
Mayor and Council, Town of Lakeshore
Mayor and Council, Town of Amherstburg