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The Honourable John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON
M7A 2T5
By Email: JWilkinson.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

Re: Canadian Environmental Law Association's Application for Review of the Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a grassroots movement consisting of stakeholder organizations with a focus on healthy river ecosystems throughout the Province. We have formed an Alliance out of frustration in our attempts to protect rivers across Ontario from waterpower proposals currently going through the application and approvals process. In that connection, we are writing in support of the recent Application for Review of the Environmental Bill of Rights, filed by Theresa A. McClenaghan and Richard D. Lindgren of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA).

The Environmental Commissioner for Ontario, Gord Miller, in his 2007 - 2008 Annual Report, stated: "Ontario's EA process is broken"; and "A 'no' decision is not a possible outcome."¹ ORA members, representing 15 Ontario rivers, and some 30 organizations, have experienced this unacceptable truth first hand, through

- A lack of transparency, cooperation, openness, and access to information on the part of the Proponents, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ministry of Environment
- A loss of meaningful public consultation, or power to stop a project that may be harmful to the environment or unacceptable to their Community; and
- An erosion of trust and confidence in a system that is Proponent driven with little or no accountability or oversight.

We have reviewed CELA's application for review of the EBR, and are in total agreement and support! ORA is making a formal request to be registered as a Stakeholder in this review, placed on your mailing list, and informed of any and all further developments. Thank you!

Respectfully,



Linda Heron, Chair
Ontario Rivers Alliance

References: ¹ - Commissioner's Message – Getting to K(NO)W - Annual Report 2007 – 2008, p28; p42

Cc: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario - DMcGuinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources - ljeffrey.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario - commissioner@eco.on.ca
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