Sean Fraser

A/Director, Provincial Planning Policy Branch

Local Government Planning and Policy Division

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

With copy to the PPS Multi-ministry Planning Team

October 31, 2019

RE: Amending the PPS – ERO 017-0279

Dear Mr Fraser,

We appreciated the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement. In that effort, as you may be aware, our organizations obtained more than 25 co-signatories on each of our submissions while the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition also generated more than 150 letters on the consultation.

As the PPS is extremely important to Ontario’s natural heritage, hydrologic systems, and the development of our communities, and as of at this time no further consultation appears to be planned, please accept that we would be happy to take efforts to make ourselves, our co-signatories, and others available for further discussion, with you and/or members of the multi-ministry PPS team, with respect to our comments and recommendations.

In addition, we ask you to consider the following:

1. Given that all amendments need to be read as part of the total PPS, and that this is a regulatory process that will not be discussed at standing committee nor is scheduled for further public meetings, we suggest a second posting to the ERO.

This second posting would allow the public to see the Province's intended direction and solicit final comments before proceeding to a decision notice. We suggest that this review could be accomplished in the minimal posting of 30 days on the ERO; and,

1. If the government makes any other changes to the PPS that weren't in the original ERO proposal, or that might not be consist with those announced amendments, we strongly suggest a second posting to the ERO, and which should be 60 days.

In fact, we suggest that the government consider making this standard protocol: that any amended wording that is new or not merely the articulation of a flow-through change previously flagged in draft text should be made available for a meaningful opportunity for public comment.

We are proud of the comments and recommendations we have made, and we look forward to any opportunity for further discussion to chart the best way forward for the PPS, especially given the crises housing affordability, municipal fiscal stability, dwindling natural capital, a changing climate, and increased stress to aquatic systems due to phosphorus, chlorides, and temperature change.

Please feel free to contact either of as shown below.

Sincerely,

**Andrew McCammon Margaret Prophet**

Executive Director Executive Director

Ontario Headwaters Institute Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition

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