

OFAH FILE: 420A/452  
August 16, 2006

Honourable David Ramsay  
Minister of Natural Resources  
and Aboriginal Affairs  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 6630, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1W3

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), I am writing to express our profound disappointment over the lack of action from your colleague, the Minister of the Environment, in response to our recent letter to her outlining concerns over the ridiculous cost increases for permits being assessed against not-for-profit hatcheries under the Sewage Act.

Your staff are aware of this issue, and I am writing to ask you to immediately intercede with your Cabinet colleague to address this serious inequity. As you know, small hatcheries run by volunteers, who put in thousands of person hours each year into raising and stocking fish for the enjoyment of all Ontarians, are responsible for approximately 50% of all of the stocking carried out in the province. Without these facilities, and the selfless efforts of the conservationists who operate them, recreational fishing in Ontario, a multi-billion dollar industry, will be severely affected. So, too, will the thousands of jobs and revenue generated by recreational fishing and associated industries.

Small hatcheries run by volunteers should not be subjected to exorbitant fees associated with the discharge of effluent from their facilities, and should definitely not be assessed under the same legislation that governs the activities of sewage treatment facilities dealing with human waste. The recent increase in fees assessed against some of the volunteer hatcheries run by conservation clubs is unconscionable, and in some cases, has resulted in increases of over one thousand per cent! Given the work that these clubs do, I am writing to ask you to immediately contact the Minister of the Environment to rectify this problem, or we risk losing these hatcheries and the valuable contribution they make to conservation in Ontario.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and trust that you will act quickly to address this serious problem.

Yours in Conservation,

Michael A. Reader  
Executive Director

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