

Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

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APR 16 2015

Mr. Charles Hatt
Lawyer
Ms. Liat Podolsky
Staff Scientist
Ecojustice
401-550 Bayview Avenue
Toronto ON M4W 3X8



Dear Mr. Hatt and Ms. Podolsky:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Ecojustice regarding the *Endangered Species Act* and the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO).

Please be assured that COSSARO will continue in its important role of classifying species at risk in Ontario. COSSARO appointments must adhere to an established process for public agency appointments, which includes being appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council through an Order in Council.

The position for a new chair of COSSARO was publically posted on the Public Appointments Secretariat website in February with a closing date of March 4, 2015. Applications for the position of chair, as well as for other members, are now being reviewed to ensure that the candidates have relevant expertise. It is expected that a new chair will be announced soon.

My ministry is continuing its strong commitment to provide support to COSSARO. As the committee that is responsible for classifying species at risk in Ontario, it plays a critical role in the recovery and protection of species at risk.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mauro".

Bill Mauro
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry