



Office of the Leader



Cabinet de la chef

May 27, 2010

The Hon. John Baird
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C- 330 Sparks St
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N5

Dear Honorable Minister Baird,

I am writing to support the appeals of local Ottawa residents for a reconsideration of the Terry Fox extension in the South March Highlands. This highway construction is in advance of need and raises many issues of concern at a local level. Speaking only to its federal issues, the decision to exempt infrastructure from environmental review may imperil species currently listed under the federal Species at Risk Act. Recognizing that the act applies only on federal land, when the federal government is financing a project, it would be appropriate to ensure that critical habitat is not impacted. While species, such as the threatened Blandings Turtle does not yet have a recovery plan under the act, the reality is that the population's recovery may well require that this area not include a highway.

I would urge you to reconsider. As you took the position as President of Treasury Board, relating to the Ottawa O-Train, that no deal is a done deal, perhaps you can do something to protect endangered species by re-thinking this project.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May".

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Leader

Elizabeth E. May, O.C., LL.B., PhD (*Hon*)

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