

From: OconnG7@parl.gc.ca
To: paul@renaud.ca
Subject: South March Highlands Conservation Forest
Date: January-11-11 12:18:26 PM

Dear Paul Renaud:

For your information:

Minister O'Connor has sent the following to the Minister responsible for the NCC as well as the CEO of the NCC, Marie Lemay.

I'm writing you as the Member of Parliament for Carleton-Mississippi Mills which contains the South March Highlands Conservation Forest. Currently there is an approved plan in place to clear cut the forest to build housing projects.

Those who oppose the development contend that the forest is one of the most ecologically significant and diverse areas in the City of Ottawa and are looking for interventions from various levels of government.

At the federal level, the National Capital Commission has a mandate to assist in the development, conservation and improvement of the National Capital Region. In particular, one of its roles, with respect to the Greenbelt, is to preserve the natural eco-systems that support the larger natural environment in the National Capital Region. It seems therefore, that the NCC should have an interest in this Forest.

When recently approached about the South March Highlands, an NCC representative advised that the Commission was in the process of reviewing the future of the Greenbelt over a 24 month period and that for the next year, no decision with respect to acquisitions or changes of land could take place. Unfortunately, if the development plan is executed in the near future, the Forest won't be here to consider at the end of the NCC review.

Therefore, I would ask that you consider sending someone to the Forest to determine its ecological value. If it is determined that it is not significant then the NCC can ignore this issue. However, if it is considered significant, then the Forest could be included in the NCC future plan.

The preservation of the South March Highlands Forest is very important for many of my constituents and I would appreciate anything you could do to help resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

John Aris
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