## RE: EBR REGISTRY NO. 010-3320

I am extremely concerned about the proposed exemptions for industry that undermine the purpose of Ontario's new Endangered Species Act (ESA). The following points outline my key concerns:

- The forestry industry must be required to fully comply with the new ESA. The forestry exemption should be withdrawn.
- The proposed exemption for forestry, quarries and development should not apply to the 42 species covered under the old ESA.
- The hydro-electric exemption should require that <u>all</u> reasonable steps be taken to minimize harm and reach an "overall benefit" for affected species. It should also require that any agreements reached be subject to public scrutiny and comment on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry. The exemption period should be reduced, allowing operators one year, rather than three, to reach an Agreement with the government about mitigating impacts.

**REGIS CORNALE** 

ISSUES MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH SPECIES AT RISK 300 WATER STREET PETERBOROUGH ONTARIO K9J 8M5

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Email:

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## SPEAK OUT ON THE PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS TO THE ESA

On May 15, 2008, the Ontario government posted a long list of exemptions to the province's fledgling Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the Environmental Registry website for a 30-day comment period.

Many of the proposed exemptions for industry will undermine the true purpose of the act and will be a huge setback for the protection of endangered species. **Reject the exemptions** that will hamstring the new ESA before it comes into force.

You can view this notice at <u>www.ebr.gov.on.ca</u>. Enter the Registry Number 010-3320. Comment online or mail in this postcard.

Act now! The comment period closes on June 16, 2008.

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