

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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January 8, 2020

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you regarding the long-term protection of the environmentally sensitive land referred to as Ojibway Shores.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park, to name a few. If connected, this area including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) which has demanded that local taxpayers pay for this property which is already owned by all Canadians. This is unacceptable as local taxpayers are already stretched and the federal government should not double dip on them to preserve the environment. Instead the senior level of government should seize the opportunity to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action.

As I have outlined in several letters to the previous Environment Minister, the Transport Minister and to the WPA that the Government of Canada can transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada. All it will take is a change in the *letters patent* of the WPA. Making changes in a port's *letters patent* is a routine procedure as I have illustrated in examples presented to the WPA.

As part of the federal government's efforts to assist municipalities adapt to climate change, intervening to transfer the Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada would further this goal by allowing the City of Windsor to reallocate the

resources that would have been used to pay for the land taxpayers already own to other environmental projects. Additionally, preserving Ojibway Shores would help to meet the government's commitment to have 25 percent of Canada's land have protected status by 2025.

As you stated in your mandate letters to cabinet ministers, "people expect parliamentarians to work together to deliver these results," I am requesting that you take action to protect Ojibway Shores. It is your choice to take advantage of this opportunity to achieve several of your government's goals while protecting local taxpayers and preserving the environment.

Thank you in advance for your time and immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West
NDP Innovation, Science and Economic Development Critic

Cc: Hon. Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh