

From: Louisette Lanteigne <butterflybluelu@rogers.com>
Sent: May-22-15 10:27 PM
To: Minister, MOECC (MOECC); MPP Catherine Fife (Kitchener-Waterloo)
Subject: Please ban on Phragmites australis

Dear Minister Murray and Ms. Fife.

In the Region of Waterloo our local wetlands are at risk by an invasive species of plant called *Phragmites australis* (European Common Reed). Recently the Waterloo Chronicle published a news story about this issue in a May 20, 2015 article called Space Invaders by reporter James Jackson. Here is the link:

<http://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news/space-invaders/>

As the story states, this plant releases toxins from it's roots into the soil to hinder growth and kill surrounding plants. It clogs ditches and drains and is a fire hazard when dry. The plant is currently being removed by cutting it down burning it and using roundup on the roots. University of Waterloo is calling it the worst wetland invasive plant.

One of the problems that we face is the fact this product is currently being sold at greenhouses in Ontario. There is little to stop the spread if folks can simply purchase it. The seeds are being carried by wind or birds and it is already having an adverse impact on nesting habitats at Long Point Marsh along Erie.

I would like to ask the minister to facilitate a ban on this particular plant in Ontario for the risk it poses to wetlands and biodiversity.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Louissette Lanteigne
700 Star Flower Ave.
Waterloo ON
N2V 2L2