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August 25, 2023

Via email

Minister David Piccini
Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street, Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Implementation of Bill 228 Dock Foam Regulations

Dear Minister Piccini,

We are writing to follow up on your discussion at the end of June with Andy Blenkarn from the Boating Ontario Association about the above. Bill 228 was enacted in May 2021 and there was an undertaking at the time to get the regulations finalized and put in place within two years. Since we are now a few months past that date, we would be most grateful if consideration could be given to moving forward swiftly with this important environmental protection provision.

The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is an umbrella organization for 18 community associations along the east and north shores of Georgian Bay, representing approximately 3,000 families. We have been advocating on behalf of our land-owning members for over 100 years and estimate that we reach and influence around 30,000 residents of the Georgian Bay. Our mandate is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

As your ministry knows, dock foam continues to contribute to plastics pollution throughout the Great Lakes basin and, indeed, on all water bodies where docks or other structures use unencapsulated foam for flotation. Putting the Bill 228 regulations in place will mark a major step forward for controlling this source of plastics pollution.

We are particularly concerned that a manufacturer of floating accommodations has been using unencapsulated dock foam for flotation and we attach four photographs evidencing the resultant pollution. Since your colleague, Minister Graydon Smith of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has been supportive of ensuring floating accommodations are properly regulated and has recently fast-tracked new regulations in this respect, we would suggest that implementing the Bill 228 dock foam regulations is a necessary corollary to our collective efforts to avoid pollution from these floating accommodations.

In January of this year, Leo Luong in your ministry informed us that your ministry was working with the federal government to ensure respective regulations on dock foam are harmonized between Ontario and the federal government, and your ministry is waiting for that process to be completed before moving ahead on developing Bill 228 regulations.

We would suggest this delay is unnecessary and will only perpetuate this growing problem. On the other hand, putting these regulations in place now will clearly demonstrate the Ontario government's leadership and commitment to taking real action on plastics pollution, which is a top-of-mind issue for many Ontarians.

This is a great opportunity for the government for an environmental win and we would be happy to partner with your ministry to assist in the development of these regulations. Thank you for your support on this matter and we look forward to hearing back from you on how we can support this great policy and initiative. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rupert Kindersley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rupert Kindersley
Executive Director

Copied to:

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|------------------------|---|
| Minister Graydon Smith | MNRF |
| Adam Bloskie | Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, MNRF |
| Philip Welford | Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, MECP |

Please note that background information on dock foam can be found here:
<https://georgianbay.ca/water/water-quality/dock-foam/>