

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement  
et de l'Action en matière de  
changement climatique

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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FEB 2 2 2018

ENV1283MC-2017-3286

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor  
City of Hamilton  
Email: [mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter of November 20, 2017 regarding the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System as a model for the first Urban Biosphere EcoPark in Canada, as well as your interest in obtaining Ontario government funding for the project. I apologize for not replying sooner.

As Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, I appreciate you bringing me up-to-date on this proposal. I recognize your interest in making this a pilot project that could lead to a new official designation (Urban Biosphere EcoParks) for protected land in Canada and commend you for the work you have done to date.

I note the purpose of the proposed park is to seek a new official designation for protected natural lands in close proximity to urban areas in order to: conserve threatened habitats and species at risk in close proximity to urban areas; expand sustainable recreation opportunities; and support local collaborative efforts to protect, connect or restore natural lands in close proximity to urban areas. These are issues which fall outside of the scope of my ministry's mandate.

I have shared a copy of your letter with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, as your proposal may be of interest to my colleagues. In terms of next steps, you may want to contact those Ministers directly. Please do keep me informed of your progress.

Thank you, again, for bringing this information to my attention, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Ballard  
Minister

c: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
The Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry