



**ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE**

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Shannon Boland
Divisional Compliance Branch
135 St Clair Avenue West, Floor 8,
Toronto, ON
M4V 1P5

By email to: EnviroCompliance@Ontario.ca

Re: ERO 019-4108
Expanding Administrative Penalties for Environmental Contraventions

Dear Sirs:

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a not-for-profit grassroots organization with a mission to protect, conserve and restore riverine ecosystems all across the province. ORA advocates for effective policy and legislation to ensure that development affecting Ontario rivers is environmentally and socially sustainable.

This proposal is for a regulation that would strengthen enforcement tools that will allow the government to hold polluters accountable and ensure compliance with environmental laws that help protect and preserve our air, land and water. It would expand the use of administrative penalties to a broader range of environmental violations to enable stronger action against illegal activity and create a more effective enforcement system. Money collected from penalties would go to support the Ontario Community Environment Fund, which is a grant program that redirects penalties paid by polluters to important community-based activities.

The ORA strongly supports the proposed penalty regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* that would revoke and replace existing penalty regulations under these acts.

That being said, this regulation would have been even more beneficial if this provincial government had not spent the last 4 years (more than 2 years of which have been under a COVID Emergency) totally gutting our hard-earned protective environmental legislation (all in the name of “cutting red tape”) and eliminating the public’s ability to have input into a Project, to be consulted, and to appeal a Minister’s decision. Proponents have no worry of polluting or protecting the environment when there is no effective legislation left to comply with.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment!

Respectfully,

Linda Heron
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
(705) 866-1677