



**Monte McNaughton, MPP**  
Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

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January 3, 2014

Ms Pat Vanini, Executive Director,  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
200 University Ave., Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

Dear Ms Vanini,

On October 24, 2013 I wrote to Premier Wynne in her capacity as Minister of Agriculture. My letter requested that the invasive species *Phragmites Australis* (common reed) be included in the list of noxious weeds under the Weed Control Act.

In her response the Premier indicated that due to the fact that the Weed Control Act is enforced by municipalities changes to the noxious weed list are therefore discussed in advance with municipalities, and in particular through a discussion process facilitated by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The following is an excerpt from my letter of October 24<sup>th</sup> to the Premier :

*The urgency of the alarming spread of the invasive species Phragmites Australis has been brought to my attention by a group of concerned constituents. We have seen this weed in the coastal waters of Lakes Erie, Huron, and St. Clair, and their connecting rivers, for many years. More recently Phragmites has become widespread in rural ditches and field drains. It is on account of this latter situation that I write to you in your role as Minister of Agriculture.*

*While some time may elapse before problems caused by this invasive species can be addressed by the Ministry of Natural Resources a rather faster attack may be made through the simple process of your ministry declaring Phragmites to be a "noxious weed."*





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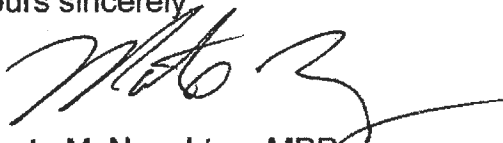
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*Such an action may not have an affect on the coastal waters distribution of Phragmites but it could help to slow its inland distribution. It is the inland distribution of Phragmites which will soon begin to have an adverse affect on agriculture when farm drains become slowed or blocked by this weed.*

I am requesting that AMO open a discussion with its members on the subject of the dangerous spread of Phragmites Australis and to the possibility of preventing its deleterious effect on Ontario agriculture. To this end I request that AMO consider recommending to the Minister of Agriculture that Phragmites Australis be added to the list of noxious weeds in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

  
Monte McNaughton, MPP  
Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

cc. Mr Ernie Hardeman, MPP  
PC caucus critic for Agriculture

Jim McDonell, MPP  
PC caucus critic, Municipal Affairs & Housing

*Thanks for your  
time in this  
important matter!*  
