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Hon. Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Re: Low water levels on Birch Lake**

Dear Minister Smith,

I am urgently writing to you about low water levels on Birch Lake. As you are aware, my office has contacted your ministry on a number of occasions in the past two months about three dams in my riding. These are located on Birch Lake, Moose Lake and Lang Lake. In all these cases, the water level on the lakes has dropped drastically over the summer. This has led to serious concerns raised by residents about the dams, which control the water leaving these lakes.

The response that I have received from your ministry is that low water levels are the result of dry weather this summer. Your ministry has not acted to address falling water levels because of this, as far as I have been informed.

Minister, I understand that you maintain this position. However, my residents of Birch Lake are facing serious consequences from a situation that is beyond their control. Constituents have written to me to say that their property was damaged and drinking water systems have failed because of the unprecedentedly low water levels this summer and fall.

Therefore, I am requesting that your ministry take action immediately to identify and implement a solution that will address these consequences. Residents are gravely concerned that the winter will make the situation worse if nothing is done, and I echo their worries. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials to discuss long-term planning to prevent this happening again.

I look forward to your timely response in this matter and working with you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Michael Mantha MPP  
Algoma-Manitoulin

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