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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Circonscription

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The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

April 21, 2016

Dear Minister,

I write to you today in support of the Coalition to Protect the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site. The Coalition is seeking an evidence-based review of the decision to allocate 60 acres of the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) to the Civic Hospital, one which involves the public and accounts for the vital contributions of the CEF to climate change and agriculture research. The current decision would diminish 15 per cent of the CEF's viable research lands and would have serious impacts on its ability to conduct scientific studies.

The CEF is a site of enormous historical and scientific significance. Some parts of the CEF that have been allocated for hospital development date back to 1886. The CEF is an open-air laboratory focused on long-term agricultural experiments. CEF research has provided pathways for stable wheat production and soybean cultivation for animal and human consumption, spurring innovation in Canada's agricultural industry.

Long-range soil studies are also underway at the CEF, which cannot be relocated. This research is crucial to Canada's understanding of climate change as it relates to soil health and carbon capture. Given Canada's ambitious position at the Paris Climate Negotiations, it would be very prudent to heed the Coalition's call to protect the CEF and their climate change research.



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The Coalition believes open consultation with the public and with stakeholders will enable the Civic Hospital to find a suitable site, while preserving the integrity of the CEF. To this effect, I urge you consider a broader consultation and alternate relocation options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Elizabeth May', written over a circular blue stamp.

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.

Saanich-Gulf Islands

Leader of the Green Party of Canada