[date]

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. full name – can be sent to MPs, MLA/MPP/MHA/MNAs, *and* Mayors/City Councillors – change red text below accordingly],

**Peatlands are one of the most valuable ecosystems on earth.** They are a type of wetland, distinguished by the accumulation of slowly-decomposing vegetation, forming into layers of peat. They purify water by trapping pollutants and help to prevent flooding by regulating water flows, in addition to serving as critical habitats. Peatlands are also the **largest natural terrestrial carbon sink in the world**, storing 30% of all land-based carbon.

Therefore, protecting and restoring peatlands is an essential component of climate change mitigation, and one in which Canada has a leading role to play: **27% of the world’s peatlands are in Canada**, and they cover about 13% of our country’s surface area. But Canada’s peatlands are at risk. Many have already been drained to clear land for agriculture, housing, roads, and mining, and there is mounting industry pressure for more to be drained (see Ontario’s “Ring of Fire,” for example).

As a [federal/provincial/municipal representative] that cares about the environment, I urge you to **support legislation, policies, and a [national/provincial/local] action plan to protect and restore degraded peatlands**. I also request you promote greater funding for **research and public education** on peatlands, to ensure Canadians are aware of their critical role in mitigating climate change, reducing forest fire and flooding severity, and supporting biodiversity.

Thank you very much for your attention and support on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

[Name]