PETITION CALLING ON THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO REMOVE THE SNAPPING TURTLE FROM THE ONTARIO FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT HUNTED SPECIES LIST

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:

WHEREAS Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act the Snapping Turtle can be taken with a valid sport or fishing license by box or funnel trap or by bare hands. Daily limit is 2 possession limit is 5

WHEREAS The governments of Ontario and Canada and Endangered Species review boards agree that, due to development of their natural habitat, low reproduction rate, vehicular traffic, human persecution and legal hunting snapping turtles are at risk of disappearing from Ontario and therefore have listed snapping turtles as a Species of Special Concern.

WHEREAS 7 of 8 Ontarioôs native turtle species are listed provincially and nationally as species at risk.

WHEREAS Hunting of 7 of these species has been completely banned in Ontario, including the not at risk painted turtle. Astonishingly, it is still legal to hunt the snapping turtle, one of the at risk turtle species!

WHEREAS The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has no data to back up its claims that a hunt of small numbers is sustainable and that snapping turtles are widespread and locally abundant (a contradiction to the findings of the Ontario and National Species at Risk review boards).

WHEREAS No Ontario region or hunting zone population figures exist.

WHEREAS No special license exists that would enable the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to record the number of snapping turtles taken each hunting season in each region/zone.

WHEREAS After 3 years of public outcry and political discussion the Snapping Turtle remains a hunted species in Ontario:

THERFORE WE the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That **all hunting of snapping turtles,** an Ontario and National listed SPECIES AT RISK**, be banned under the** Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature

Friends of Ontario Snapping Turtles(FROST) information contact ï Anne Lewis 705-856-8425

Return to PO Box 49, Mactier, Ont. P0C 1H0