

Dear Commissioners,

L'Anse a L'Orme is very important as a rich ecosystem that allows even urban dwellers to have contact with the natural world at our doorstep. It is a place where a wide diversity of birds, animals, plants and trees are still flourishing, and is a great source of education, inspiration, healing and joy for many West Islanders. Moreover, I regularly bring groups of students to the forest, and many of them have never experienced being in one before; the educational value of the experience is beyond words. I have been doing this regularly since 2008. Students are deeply affected by its beauty and ecological richness, and often write comments telling me what an important experience this was for them. To lose even the grasslands, and the ecological integrity of the whole section, would be an irreversible tragedy for the Montreal Island region. I can't believe the houses can't be built somewhere else. Destroying this ecological area is like destroying a cultural treasure or a great and ancient building; it can't be replaced. If we are to be responsible to those who will follow us, I believe we must work harder to conserve the natural world close to our cities.

Thank you for your attention to this message.

best wishes

Ann Beer