



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

October 24, 2024

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C, M.P.
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety

Dear Ministers,

We are writing to you as New Democrats regarding serious concerns raised by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the illegal importation of long-tailed macaques into Canada. As you may be aware, the information presented highlights multiple violations of Canadian laws and international obligations, including breaches of the Canada Transportation Act and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA).

The illegal importation of endangered macaques, involving SkyTaxi flights chartered by Charles River Laboratories, has exposed significant gaps in Canada's enforcement of its environmental and transportation regulations. In addition, there are grave concerns about the potential falsification of documentation and the associated risks of zoonotic disease spillover that endanger public health and ecological stability. It is vital that Canada upholds its commitment to wildlife protection and rigorous enforcement of laws meant to safeguard both our ecosystems and public safety.

We have also been informed of a new, urgent development. SkyTaxi is scheduled to land another flight from Cambodia, presumably carrying endangered primates, on November 7—just 17 days from today. Despite the serious concerns raised, the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has granted the licence, and this time Charles River Laboratories is clearly listed as the charterer. This situation calls for immediate intervention to prevent further illegal importation of endangered species into Canada.

We urge you to take the following immediate actions:

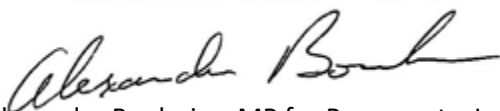
1. Enforce existing laws rigorously by investigating the violations of the Canada Transportation Act and WAPPRIITA, with a focus on scrutinizing all international shipments involving endangered species.

2. Strengthen penalties for violations to deter future illegal activities, ensuring that they are not merely perceived as a cost of doing business.
3. Implement additional safeguards to verify that imported long-tailed macaques were bred in legitimate facilities and not sourced illegally from the wild.
4. Examine the coordination between Canadian regulatory agencies such as the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to improve oversight and enforcement capabilities.
5. Intervene to stop the scheduled flight on November 7, 2024, from landing in Canada, and review the authorization process that granted this licence, in order to prevent further illegal wildlife trade activities.

Additionally, we are committed to working with our parliamentary colleagues to explore new legislative measures that could prohibit the importation of all primates for use in experimentation, protect endangered species, and prevent Canada from becoming a hub for unethical and illegal wildlife trade practices.

We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your response on the steps being taken to address these serious violations and prevent future occurrences. Protecting our wildlife, environment, and public health should be of the utmost priority for all levels of government.

Sincerely,



Alexandre Boulerice, MP for Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie



Laurel Collins, MP for Victoria



Matthew Green, MP for Hamilton Centre