



January 14, 2025

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

Nicholas Winfield
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Services
Environment Canada

Dr. Mary Jane Ireland
Chief Veterinary Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Dr. Theresa Tam
Chief Public Health Officer
Public Health Agency of Canada
Health Canada

Dear Minister Guilbeault, Director General Winfield, Dr. Ireland and Dr. Tam:

We have contacted your agencies repeatedly since May 2023 with alerts and documentation that the trade in *Macaca fascicularis* (long-tailed macaques) from Cambodia was likely illegal. Despite our evidence, over the past 20 months, Canadian CITES Management authorities have allowed more than 6,500 live macaques to enter Canada from Cambodia and then issued re-export permits for tens of thousands of specimens extracted from these endangered primates, to be sent to the United States. During this period your agencies have repeatedly claimed to be upholding your responsibilities as signatories to the CITES treaty. This morning, the [CITES Secretariat announced](#), based on the information available, that it has recommended that the CITES “**Standing Committee advise all Parties to suspend trade in *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia. This recommendation reflects serious concerns about the legality and sustainability of this trade.**”

Note that beginning in August 2024, we repeatedly alerted the CITES Secretariat that Charles River Laboratories had imported multiple shipments of Cambodian-origin macaques into Canada in apparent violation of national laws and international guidelines.

In light of these developments and the Secretariat's recommendation, we again request that the Canadian CITES Management Authority immediately halt all importation of *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia and suspend the re-export of any specimens derived from Cambodian-origin *Macaca fascicularis* to ensure compliance with CITES provisions and to support global conservation efforts for this species. Furthermore, we again request that you demand that Charles River Laboratories provide incontrovertible biological proof that all shipments of

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monkeys already sent from Cambodia contained only captive-bred monkeys. Your efforts going forward to fully enforce the CITES trade ban on *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia must be extended to the more than 6,500 imported macaques and tens of thousands of re-exported specimens that you have facilitated in your role as the Canadian CITES Management Authority. Charles River Laboratories should not be allowed to continue to profit from illegally taken animals.

Taking prompt action will demonstrate Canada's commitment to upholding international wildlife trade regulations and the conservation of endangered species.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your swift response and action.

Yours sincerely,



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