

October 9, 2011

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Kent:

**Re: Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*),
Boreal Population, in Canada – Saskatchewan.**

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed *Recovery Strategy of the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada* (the Proposed Recovery Strategy) that was released for public comment on August 26, 2011.

I am XXXX (President, shareholder, official) of Company XYZ. My company, which employs 123 people, is involved in providing goods and services to the mining sector in Saskatchewan for the past ABC years. During this time my company has done approximately \$\$\$\$ M worth of business with the northern mines. The mining industry is a primary driver of Saskatchewan's economy, particularly in northern Saskatchewan, the very region that this report targets for no additional development opportunities.

It is hard not to immediately observe the discrepancies in the manner in which the different provinces and territories have been assessed.

In the Recovery Strategy, the entire northern Saskatchewan region is shown as unlikely to sustain boreal caribou populations, and is identified in blue, as "connectivity" populations. As I understand, information provided in the report, and by Environment Canada officials in follow-up discussions with mining representatives, indicates that the proposed Recovery Strategy action plans for the blue "connectivity" populations will require the amount of undisturbed habitat to reach a threshold of 65% before any type of development can proceed. The report identifies that naturally occurring forest fires already comprise in the range of between 49 and 65% disturbance in northern Saskatchewan. As a result the area is currently, and will likely be for the foreseeable future, well below the 65% undisturbed habitat threshold. As fire is a natural and necessary part of the forest fire ecosystem, it is not logical that the role of fire is the predominant factor in determining the sustainability of boreal caribou populations. Similarly, as human land use activities account for only between 2 and 4% disturbance in northern Saskatchewan, it is very difficult to come to the conclusion that human land use activities are a factor in the determination of boreal caribou populations in northern Saskatchewan.

The balance between environmental protection and economic growth must be struck, along with a more balanced ecosystem, rather than species specific outlook. This is particularly so during times of global economic uncertainty. Until more compelling evidence is available that human activities are a significant factor in determining the sustainability of caribou populations in northern Saskatchewan, I would respectfully suggest that development should be permitted to continue. Any other action would present undue risk to the mining companies, communities and companies such as mine that rely on the mining industry for our businesses.

I understand that these concerns, and other inconsistencies and errors in the report have been brought to the attention of yourself and Environment Canada officials recently as well as over the past two years but that these concerns have remained unanswered. I also understand that a more detailed letter from the Saskatchewan Mining Association that specifically addresses what we have identified as the scientific, technical and administrative errors and inconsistencies will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your attention to the matters I have raised.

Yours sincerely,

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XXXXXXXXXXXX

cc. Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance
Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway
Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture, MP Battlefords - Lloydminster
Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of Western Economic Development, MP Blackstrap
Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker, House of Commons, MP Regina – Qu'Appelle
Mr. David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of NRCan,
MP Cypress Hills – Grasslands
Mr. Ed Komarnicki, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources &
Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour, MP Souris-Moose Mountain
Mr. Tom Lukiwski, Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the
House of Commons, MP Regina – Lumsden - Lake Centre
Mrs. Kelly Block, Chair Saskatchewan Caucus, MP Saskatoon – Rosetown – Biggar
Mr. Rob Clarke, MP Desenshé – Missinippi – Churchill River
Mr. Randy Hoback, MP Prince Albert
Mr. Ray Boughen, MP Palliser
Mr. Garry Breitkreuz, MP Yorkton – Melville
Mr. Bradley Trost, MP Saskatoon – Humboldt
Mr. Maurice Vellacott, MP Saskatoon – Wanuskewin
Mr. Wayne Wouters, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet
Honourable Bill Boyd, Saskatchewan Minister of Energy and Resources

Honourable Dustin Duncan, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment
Honourable Ken Krawetz, Saskatchewan Minister of Finance
Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan
Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff, Saskatchewan Minister of First Nation and Métis

Relations

Honourable June Draude, Saskatchewan Minister of Social Services
Pam Schwann, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Mining Association