Letter of Comment

Contact information and written comments will be placed on the public registry for this project.

Hard copy filings may be made by mail, courier, hand delivery or fax at the address below.

Joint Review Panel - Enbridge Northern Gateway Project
444 Seventh Avenue S.W., 2nd floor mailroom
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0X8
Facsimile: (403) 292-5503, or toll free at 1-877-288-8803

Date: 27/04/2012

Contact Information

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Please ensure that your letter of comment includes:

- the nature of your interest in the proposed project
- comments on the proposed project
- any relevant information that will explain or support your comments

Comments

Attach additional pages if necessary.

I am part of the two-thirds of British Columbians who oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline.

We depend on healthy air, water and soil to survive, no matter how much money we have and no matter where we live -- Vancouver, Ottawa, Shanghai or Mumbai. We also depend on salmon, on forests, rivers and watersheds, for sustenance and cultural and economic reasons.

But we're threatening those critical life-giving systems with climate change caused by burning fossil fuels like oil and coal. We're doing it by irreversibly destroying the land in the tar sands, a project so massive it can be seen from...
space. We'll do it again if we plow through the wilderness from the tar sands to our coast, breaking up critical habitat, risking our watersheds and our pristine coast with oil spills. This WILL happen. What will the local fishermen do then? How much will the recovery cost?

And once the bitumen reaches China, gets processed and is burned, yet more greenhouse gases -- already emitted just in extracting the bitumen -- will be released into the atmosphere, along with terrible effects on our health. Just look at Shanghai. I couldn't imagine living in that haze and struggling so hard to breathe.

Pollution pays no attention to international borders, nor does climate change. What we do to the planet, we do to ourselves, and this includes our American neighbours, who are as concerned as we are, and anyone not living near the pipeline or tar sands. I'm happy to have Americans' support, as small as it is.

My own future -- our future, our children's future -- is at stake when projects like the Northern Gateway pipeline get approved. This country and its people will have to endure the consequences of climate change and pollution in the name of short-term profits for a select few and an economy that won't survive the damage.

An oil spill is inevitable -- Enbridge itself acknowledges this -- and the only question is, how bad will the damage be? Alaska still has not recovered from the Exxon Valdez. British Columbia's shores, with its incredible coastal ecosystem, will suffer irreparable damage from a spill that no amount of preparation, warning systems or technology can prevent. We're human: we make mistakes.

The passage through which we expect tankers to pass is among the most treacherous on earth. Surely we have better options than pumping oil across a treacherous, untouched landscape. Surely we could do the work in Alberta, keep the jobs in Canada, and benefit Canadians, while scaling back on the thoughtless expansion of the tar sands.

The pipeline won't benefit British Columbians. It is a threat. We have stood unanimously opposing it. Our interest is a national interest. It's time for the government to listen to its people. Reject this pipeline proposal now, and ban tanker traffic on the northern coast of British Columbia.