

Date: Sun, Jun 3, 2018 at 8:32 AM

Subject: Re: Northern Pulp's chronic assault on the environment

To: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Cc: dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca, Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca, ceaa.northernpulp.acee@ceaa-acee.gc.ca, johnross@dal.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Request for Designation for CEAA Federal Assessment - Northern Pulp Effluent Treatment Facility

I am writing to support the request from fishermen's organizations from Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick and Pictou Landing First Nation to have Northern Pulp's Effluent Treatment Project designated a project for Federal Environmental Assessment under Section 14 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012.

I am very concerned about the harm to fish and fish habitat that could result from Northern Pulp's proposal to discharge 70-90 million litres of treated effluent from a bleached kraft mill every day through a 10.5k pipe into the prime fishing grounds of the Northumberland Strait.

I am concerned about the continued health of the Northumberland Strait, which attracts thousands of tourists, visitors and summer residents who fish, dive, swim and boat in its beautiful waters. The Northumberland Strait is a key part of life and the economy of Pictou County and draws people to our area. It is still a relatively ecologically diverse area and we humans threaten the delicate ecosystem.

I believe this project requires a more rigorous review than it will receive from the province of Nova Scotia, which has decided to require only a Class 1, 50-day review, including only 30 days for public comment. The banana republic-like politics that occur in this province are at times gob smacking!

The government's past handling of effluent from this mill has resulted in one of the most contaminated sites in Canada, Boat Harbour. I want to see a strong, science based review of this project which will protect the present and future health of our Strait, the many other plant and animal species in the area, and the economy which depends on healthy waters.

Northern Pulp has leveraged the economically depressed Pictou region for decades by providing barely acceptable wages to low skill workers, using political influence to minimize production costs and ignore long term environmental impacts - basically bullying the region into accepting their terms oblivious to the consequences. It is appalling that in 2018 we are even having this discussion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**John Ross MD FRCPC
Emergency Physician
Halifax, Nova Scotia**