

March 8, 2019

Dear Minister Miller

I would like to ask that you, read this message and respond with next steps your Department is prepared to take to protect our Northumberland Strait's ecology, the livelihoods in three provinces that are dependent on it and our future oceans health. I would also ask that those copied read this correspondence being my local MLA, Randy Delory, our Federal Minister of Environment, the Honorable Catherine McKenna responsible for our oceans and my local MP Sean Fraser.

There are many aspects to this submission that I am uncomfortable with. First of all the timelines have been pushed and pushed to the point that the urgency has created a atmosphere of confusion based on quick responses by Northern Pulp which do not adequately address the environmental concerns that need to be addressed. There is critical data that I feel is not available to ensure we and our strait are properly protected from this waste. The waste has been determined by Northern Pulp to be "acceptable" and in fact this is a better solution than the existing process. The make up of the waste has not been clearly identified and mention of mercury has been suppressed if not avoided. This is only one toxic substance that must be thoroughly investigated as to the effect on the health of the Strait as well as the local community and those consuming the sea food from this area. Long term effects are not mentioned. Broad based terms such as "acceptable" and "minimal" do not do this toxic stew credit. We cannot accept the risk of damage to our lobster and other sea creatures in larval and adult forms, without a clear and concise path of study without ambiguity. It is unfortunate that Northern Pulp has waited this long to correct the Boat Harbour waste disposal process and the people of NS should not be held accountable for their lack of response over the past several years. In some ways I also hold the NS Government responsible in lack of urgency many years ago and letting this environmental disaster get to this point. We must now pit those supported by the plant to the industries dependent (in three provinces) on the Strait's health. I find the submission is fraught with ambiguity and essentially written with bloated text to disallow proper assessment over the 30 day period allowed. The whole idea of dumping this waste directly into the Strait flies in the face of what our Federal Gov't has committed only recently. Recall the quote by Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard:

“The health of our oceans is in danger and the time to act is now. Hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs rely on sustainable oceans. Our Government is working with our international partners, including those in the G7, to combat illegal fishing, support ocean science, and tackle marine plastics. This way, we can protect our beautiful coasts and build prosperous, stronger, and more resilient coastal communities. Healthy oceans mean a healthy, thriving and growing Canadian economy.”

It is important to restate, healthy oceans mean a thriving and growing Canadian economy. We need more protections for our coasts, and not allowing a toxic stew to be dumped directly in the Strait will go towards achieving this. Sustainable economies do not base themselves on an unending attack on our natural resources. The NS Government needs to look at different approaches to grow our economy.

I feel that it is the responsibility of the NS Government to take all the precautions necessary to protect our environment and marine industries. If you do not do this who will? Given the above it

is in the interests of the populace at large, the environment that cannot speak for itself, and our fellow Canadians in NB and PEI that the Proposal be rejected and continue on the path of closing the existing treatment facility.

Kind regards,

Mark Ballard