

Sent: June 14, 2018 1:06 PM

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

Cc: LeBlanc, Dominic: HOC; Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca; NorthernPulp [CEAA|ACEE]; sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca; Trudeau, Justin: HOC

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

The Honourable Catherine McKenna

Minister of Environment and Climate Change House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

June 14, 2018

Honorable Catherine McKenna,

My name is Wes Surrett and I am the general manager of the Pictou Lodge Beach Resort. A tourism operation built in the 1920's with a rich history of famous visitors, weddings, events, and family getaways. More recently we have been a national leader in the wedding venue business winning top 10 awards in "Best Wedding Food" (Food Network 2016) and "Loveliest Wedding Venues in Canada" (Wedding Bells 2018). We employ 90 people from the local area. We have continued to increase revenue and, in turn, tax contribution. Especially over the last 10 years.

We have had this success despite living and operating in a heavily polluted area. The air emissions from a local pulp mill have constantly caused us issues and lost business. It has costed the tourism brand of our area dearly. In a world where TripAdvisor and other online ratings rule, these issues constantly tarnish our brand. Despite these challenges and environmental handicaps we continue to push forward. When we were informed of the new plan by Northern Pulp to pump pulp effluent just down the beach from our resort and two provincial beaches we were astounded. Even more so astounded when we learned as taxpayers we will be paying for part of the project. The risk this poses to our industry is great. We are already operating with the handicap of poor air, and now we have the risk of polluted waters as well. Our marketing branding, and that of the province of Nova Scotia, is "Canada's Ocean Playground". We lead our marketing efforts with the warm swimmable waters of the Northumberland Strait and the fresh local seafood. All of this is at risk. 200 million dollars of tourism revenues on the Northumberland Shore is at risk. 3200 tourism jobs along the Northumberland Shore are at risk. 24 million dollars of tax revenue are at risk.

I am also a resident of the town of Pictou with my wife and our two young children. Apart from the business risk, and most importantly, is the health risk to the residents in our area. The pulp mill consistently fails stack tests, even after the new equipment was installed in 2014. Nova Scotia's auditor general report in 2017 notes the poor monitoring, recording, environmental risk assessment, understanding and follow up by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. The residents and businesses in our area are unprotected victims to environmental abuse. Environmental abuse that is caused by, and profit, a foreign ownership group. A company that has been subsidized by Nova Scotian and Canadian tax payers for many, many years. We need federal involvement to protect us from the current and any possible future abuse.

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.

There is too much at risk to fast track this process. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Yours truly,

Wes Surrett
CHGM, CHA
General Manager
Pictou Lodge Beach Resort

