

December 1, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.,
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Re: Environment Canada's Proposed 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.

As a business person from the Saskatoon area I am very aware that the mining industry is a primary driver of Saskatchewan's economy particularly in northern Saskatchewan where it provides one of the very few opportunities for economic advancement of communities.

You have recognized the important role the resource sector has played in ensuring Canada remained relatively unaffected during the global economic recession and its continuing recovery, by providing high quality employment, business opportunities and investing in the sector. Your government has taken a number of actions to build on these contributions.

The Government of Canada has also signalled its commitment to economic development opportunities in northern Canada, currently a region that is economically disadvantaged and infrastructure limited, but also one of opportunity. The mining industry in northern Saskatchewan is also committed to ensuring residents and businesses of northern Saskatchewan benefit from mining activity in the region, and they are global leaders in this regard. In 2010 the uranium mining industry spent over \$330 million on salaries, wages and benefits for its direct employees. Of this, over \$90 million was paid to over 1400 residents of Saskatchewan's north. The industry's contractors paid out an additional \$217 million to their employees. In 2010 the value of goods and services purchased by the industry was \$916 million. Over 67% (\$618 million) of this amount went to businesses based in Saskatchewan and 39% (\$361 million) went to businesses based in northern Saskatchewan.

Strategically, Canada, solely through mineral production from Saskatchewan, provided 18% of the world's uranium in 2010 with a value of mineral production of \$1.4 Billion. This proportion is poised to increase to over 25% of global uranium production in the next few years further securing Canada as a dominant supplier of a reliable and clean energy to the world. The region also produces gold, and potentially base and rare earth metals, and diamond.

However, the Proposed Recovery Strategy developed by Environment Canada places the economic and social contributions the mining industry makes to the communities, Saskatchewan, Canada and global energy security at risk while not offering any realistic recovery strategy for woodland caribou. The

Proposed Recovery Plan would severely limit or prohibit any further resource or infrastructure development in northern Saskatchewan, and significant parts of northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Even worse, it is far from certain that implementing such severe restrictions on human and industrial activity would have any impact whatsoever on the modeled sustainability of the woodland caribou populations, given the predominant weighting that natural fires have on the model, (fires result in over 60% disturbance in most Saskatchewan units compared to only 2% human or industrial disturbance).

The Strategy is counterproductive to your Government's initiatives that support sustainable economic development and it undermines the good work that has been done with respect to the principle of regulatory certainty.

Yours sincerely,

cc. Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of Environment 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 John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs
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 Desenthé - 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
Honourable Bill Boyd, Minister of Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Saskatchewan Finance
Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan
Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis
Relations
Honourable June Draude, Minister of Saskatchewan Social Services
Saskatchewan Mining Association Executive