

From: [Throness, Laurie](#)
To: s22
Cc: [Minister, MIT MIT:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Ceta
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2013 9:09:24 AM

Good morning, s22 Thank you for your email about CETA from a few weeks ago. I obtained information from Minister Wat's office about our position on the matter, and yesterday, as you know, the federal government announced a deal.

Throughout the negotiation process the Province conducted ongoing consultations with the UBCM, so provincial officials were well aware of the UBCM's concerns regarding the potential application of the proposed agreement to local governments, especially in the areas of procurement. Those concerns were clearly conveyed to the federal government.

For its part, the Government of Canada has stated that a Canada-European Union trade agreement would not prevent governments from addressing the needs of their constituents and providing support to local businesses through grants, loans and fiscal incentives and selection criteria such as quality, price (including transportation costs and duties), technical requirements or relevant experience in competitive bids.

While the Government of BC, due to a non-disclosure agreement with the federal government, can't discuss specific negotiating positions, the Province has consulted, and will continue to consult, with UBCM, and explain the impacts of trade agreement obligations on municipalities.

No doubt we'll have more details about the agreement soon; hopefully they will meet with your approval. Thanks again for your inquiry.

So she will know about your concern, I have taken the liberty of copying the Honourable Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy, and Multiculturalism.

Best wishes
Laurie

From: s22
Sent: September 19, 2013 8:41 PM
To: Throness.MLA, Laurie
Subject: Ceta

Dear Mr. Throness, I'm writing to express my strong concern with ongoing Canada-European Union trade negotiations and their impact on my community. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities has three times now requested "a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA." That's because they can see that the EU agreement will ban "buy local" policies on public spending, and put other restrictions on local governments that don't make sense. Around the world, local governments are trying to increase the amount of money they spend locally – for environmental reasons as much as to create jobs or support local farmers in the case of food purchases. I don't see why pro-local policies should be made illegal by a trade deal. The B.C. government has a responsibility to listen to the UBCM by excluding local governments from these rules in CETA. I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely,

s22