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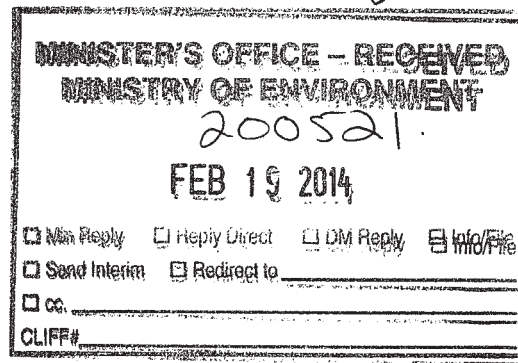
**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hope

February 7, 2014

Hon. Mary Polak
Minister of the Environment
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4



Dear Minister:

Further to your Ministry's announcement of its intervention in the Trans-Mountain pipeline application before the National Energy Board, I want to convey my concerns to you about the proposed pipeline, given that approximately 90 kilometres of the line (8% of its total length) will run through the heart of my constituency.

Of course the pipeline will have to meet the five rigorous tests that our Government has already set out, but I would like to highlight the particular vulnerabilities of my riding that require special consideration. In doing so it is not my intention to be obstructive, but rather to ensure the pipeline's success by requiring of the company the highest possible safety standards so that it can coexist safely with the communities of Chilliwack-Hope, and operate profitably for decades into the future.

I would point out that the current pipeline is situated directly over the aquifer that feeds Hope's water supply, as well as that of a major employer in Hope that produces bottled water. At present Hope enjoys the rare privilege of pure, untreated water. Any kind of spill nearby would endanger that source, as well as its high reputation, with resulting implications for safety, and expensive and permanent remediation. I would therefore request that the new pipeline be routed away from this important water source.

There are several other places where the pipeline will pass near water sources. Agriculture, business, homeowners and even another bottled water company in Chilliwack depend on the integrity of these sources. I would therefore ask that special protection be required of the pipeline in these areas. Special protections could include enhanced protective coatings or other encasements of the pipeline at these most sensitive points.

Concerns have been expressed about the Cheam Wetlands. I would request that the pipeline avoid this sensitive environmental area.

The Lower Mainland is BC's most populous area, one of its most scenic regions, and also the most productive agricultural region in the province. If there were to be a spill we would want to be able to react immediately to shut down the pipeline very near to the source of the leak. I would therefore ask that all shut-off valves be operated remotely, allowing for reaction times to be measured in minutes rather than hours. Further, I would note that there are only a half-dozen shut-off valves planned between the Coquihalla Summit and Chilliwack. I would ask that the number and location of shut-off valves be increased in order to reduce the amount that could leak after the line has been shut down.

Finally, I am not as concerned about the new pipeline as the 60 year-old pipeline already installed. Our area has enjoyed a good safety record in the past, but by definition there must be deterioration of that line over time. I realize that the original line is not the subject of this application, but I would request that your officials ask the NEB to undertake an analysis of the safety of the original pipeline, and make recommendations for its remediation, in order to ensure another 60 years of safe operation.

I respectfully request that your Ministry convey my concerns, and those of my constituents, along with its own submission to the NEB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Throness". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Throness".

Laurie Throness

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Norm Letnick, M.L.A.
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February 25, 2014

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I would like to bring to your attention a unique opportunity to participate in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit that will be held in Whistler BC, from July 20-24, 2014. This outstanding event only occasionally occurs in British Columbia, which happened most recently in Vancouver in 2008 and was very well attended.

PNWER is the only statutory, non-partisan, bi-national, public/private partnership in North America. Its goals include strengthening relationships, finding cross-border solutions to common challenges, and advocating for regional interests. PNWER is composed of legislators, governments, and businesses from ten jurisdictions: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon Washington, and British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

The 2014 PNWER Summit is expected to attract 500-600 key legislators, business leaders, and decision makers to Whistler. Summit delegates will consider and address many major policy issues impacting the region.

I have included a postcard reminder with the link to the event website which will be increasingly populated in the coming weeks. We are working with PNWER staff and the host committee to create a program that will include major keynote speakers, relevant policy discussions and specific action items that can advance our region's interests. Priority topics will include energy, the environment, border management, workforce mobility, transportation and tourism.

I hope to see you at the Whistler Summit.

Sincerely,

Norm Letnick
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Intergovernmental Affairs

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FEB 25 2014	
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