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Sent: July 20, 2016 2:14 PM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Subject: CEAA - EA Review - submission

Hello Panel

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) will establish to review environmental assessment (EA) processes associated with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012).

The public has lost trust in the whole NEB process. Having a panel of industry representatives making the decisions is a farce. The public demands that the Federal Government conduct an independent review and that the Terms of Reference include feedback from the Public, experts in the environmental fields, true scientific reviews, and done with true collaboration with Indigenous governments as Canadian Law demands.

We need to develop a visionary new approach which requires that the independent expert panel have a broad mandate and the authority and resources to commission expert analysis and reports.

I recommend that the Terms of Reference and review process include the following to benefit all Canadians:

1. Ensuring that the Scope of Review is broad enough to identify strategic-level solutions to strengthening EA, and not merely incremental improvements to project-level assessment;
2. Recognition in the TOR of the need for the Panel to explore and define the goals and purpose of modern-day EA to set the context for the new process;
3. The commissioning of discussion papers on the best available information on leading-edge assessment approaches;
4. A requirement in the TOR that the Panel report on how it considers comments received; and
5. Designation in the TOR of a public review and comment period on the draft Panel report.
6. Direction in the TOR for the Panel report to include detailed recommendations for legislative changes.

The Liberal Party promised to change the NEB review process during the 2015 election and should stand by its word. This is essential in order for Canada to meet its stated climate targets and address the huge challenges that we are leaving to future generations by not addressing the problems of climate change and environmental destruction that we are already experiencing.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Dunn