

jspillett@physiofunction.ca

To: info@friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca

Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 11:42 PM

Dear Mr. Environment Minister,

I am a taxpayer of NS and concerned about the future of Pictou Co.. My family is in Pictou Co and this county has the highest rate of cancer in NS. My father worked close to NS Pulp and has cancer. We have a family cottage close to Caribou and I am concerned about the future of swimming in the Northumberland Strait. I have great memories as a child and as a parent of 2 kids that have had a lot of fun swimming and boating in these waters. I hope my future generations will be able to have the same enjoyment. Growing up in Pictou Co, I have smelled Northern Pulp's pungent smell and wonder how can that be good for our lungs. My sister works in Pictou and can not open her windows due to the horrible smell. How is it possible that the residents of Pictou currently have to endure the particles (that come from Northern Pulp) that land on their homes and cars? With Northern Pulp's new plan they want to add MORE particles into the air with burning the sledge. Is the NS Govt going to consider the health and recreational enjoyment of people that live and vacation in Pictou Co, or simply ignore them to keep Northern Pulp happy? Pictou Co has the potential to be very active in tourism but this will not flourish when the air smells and people do not want to stay and be outside ending the scenery.

The new proposed route to carry the effluent away from Northern Pulp involves going beside and over the watershed area for the Town of Pictou. Why would anyone risk pollution of a town's water supply in the present days of 2020's. Allowing this risk would be very archaic.

I enjoy eating seafood: fish caught from the rivers of Pictou Co and shellfish from off Caribou. As I see climate change occurring (floods/fires/droughts) and the waters the Northumberland Strait warming over the past few years, I am concerned about the bacteria that exist with warmer water and the safety of eating shellfish as recently noted off BC coast. So I do not think it would be prudent to allow 80-90 million L of warm water to constantly flow into Caribou waters, not even considering the actual composition of extra abnormal chemical particles that will also be deposited into the Caribou waters from Northern pulp's exudate. What about the safety of the fish caught in these waters that is exported around the world. Do we keep jobs at Northern Pulp instead of the fisherman jobs and risk the health of people all over the world? Mr MacNeil has travelled to China numerous times in during his time as premier to promote Seafood from NS - I don't think he would want to jeopardize this resource.

I hope our government is truly concerned about the future of the oceans, marine and wildlife, and health of its people. Northern Pulp has posters distributed in Pictou Co to preserve our forestry which I think is very misleading. We do need to maintain our forests and this does provide jobs, We DO NOT NEED TO DEFOREST OUR LAND to make jobs as Northern Pulp does.

Kudos to the Pictou Landing First Nations that have fought Northern Pulp over the years to stand up for their rights and have been successfully awarded costs by the courts. I would be very disappointed if the NS Gov't gives an extension to Northern Pulp and disregards the people of Pictou Landing. The Government says it is involved in Truth and Reconciliation, I look forward to see them keeping their word.

My last concern is Northern Pulp's poor record in detecting leaks that have frequently occurred in the current Boat Harbour treatment system and also the high level of abnormal pollutants from the precipitator. Their track record is not good. Why did they not have a conclusive report sent to the NS Gov't in March and thus required more time to do their work and diligence? How many chances do we give them and why as tax payers are we paying. Let's stand up and correct the errors of previous governments since the 1960's. Enough is enough. Throwing more money at bad is not the answer. Understanding the conflict of interest of our provincial gov't is in, do the correct thing and ask for a proper federal environmental assessment to better assess all the risks that are identified and present or simply say no to Northern Pulp for an extension. Another 10 years of harm may not be reversible as in the proposed 250 million or more Boat Harbour cleanup.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns re: the future of life in Pictou Co. PLEASE provide/facilitate a healthy longterm future without the imminent risk of distress(pollution) in an environment. Use money to think outside the box to find new jobs for the current employees and associated workers of Northern Pulp instead of keeping a bad system working. SAY NO TO THE PIPE!

