

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 5:02 PM  
To: Tessier, Scott  
Subject: Strategic Environmental Assessment from the C-NLOPB

Dear Mr. Tessier:

The most recent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) from the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) highlights serious concerns for the five provincial coastlines at risk, including my own province of Prince Edward Island. Making a decision on the possibility of oil and gas seismic surveys and exploratory drilling without first acknowledging, and rectifying, the many gaps of scientific knowledge found in your report could result in harm to the ecosystem and surrounding provinces.

In hearing from those who are scientifically qualified to comment on the matter, I am of the opinion that the Gulf of St. Lawrence is already in fragile health. With this in mind, it seems that the correct thing to do in this situation is adhere to precautionary principal and withhold development until it can be proven to be completed without any harm to the ecosystem.

Additionally, the consultation process undertaken resulted in concerns and issues highlighted by not only my constituents and other Islanders, but residents of the other Atlantic Provinces. My assistant and I were listed as stakeholders consulted but were only there due to an invitation from a consultant hired by Corridor Resources.

I find it troubling that these concerns seem to have been accepted as mere challenges rather than reasons to review the consultation process again or halt the project. There is a vast difference between "consultation" and "placation" and I sincerely hope we are not dealing with the latter.

Seismic surveys and exploratory drilling have the potential to devastate Prince Edward Island's socio-economic situation as fishing is one of PEI's primary industries, and employers. Besides the obvious threat to the fishing industry, granting further exploration rights has the added side effect of potentially affecting our tourism industry. The Gulf of St. Lawrence is a beautiful natural asset, and as you stated in your report, an environmentally sensitive area that deserves the utmost care for the sake of our future dependence on its resources.

While provincial boundaries dividing the Gulf of St. Lawrence are man-made and therefore mostly superficial, the implications of oil development are not. I would ask at least for the consultation process to be reviewed and undertaken in a genuine manner to hear the concerns of the communities affected by this project prior to exploratory or development deeds being released.

Sincerely,

Sean Casey, Member of Parliament  
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