



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 18 2017

Mr. Robert Varney
Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
393, Rue St-Jaques Ouest, Bureau 200
Montreal QC H2Y IN9

Office of
International and
Tribal Affairs

Dear Mr. Varney:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for your advice to Council No: 17-03: *Environmental Considerations in the Further Elaboration of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) in the event of a Further Elaboration of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)*.

We appreciate the recommendations of the JPAC regarding considerations to be taken into account in the renegotiation and modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement, such as the importance of addressing, improving and strengthening environmental concerns as part of any fair, modern, and updated regional trade instrument; and the experiences, successes, knowledge, and value added of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and its institutional bodies.

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Mexico's Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources are participating in the NAFTA environment negotiations and have passed along JPAC's advice to the CEC Council No: 17-03 to the lead negotiators and relevant agencies. We value the JPAC's experience and advice in informing the NAFTA renegotiation and modernization process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Nishida".

Jane Nishida
Alternate Representative for the United States
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

cc:

Isabelle Bérard, Alternate Representative for Canada
Enrique Lendo, Alternate Representative for Mexico
César Chavez, CEC Executive Director
Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer