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In 1994 Canadians were worried that NAFTA could see our country become a “pollution haven”, and to address those concerns Canada signed on to the NAAEC. Twenty years later we are facing the very fate we took action to prevent.

The Canadian government’s recent actions show that the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) has failed to ensure that the signatories to the agreement maintain high environmental standards.

It is clear that Canada’s government is listening to industry, and ignoring both the public and its obligations under the NAAEC. Last year’s omnibus “budget” bills, Bills C-38 and C-45, contained sweeping revisions to many of Canada’s environmental laws. Only a few months before Bill C-38 was introduced, the oil and gas industry had asked for many of these same changes.