

9 March 2016

Jim Carr
Minister of Natural Resources, Canada

Pedro Joaquin Coldwell
Secretary of Energy, Mexico

Ernest Moniz,
Secretary of Energy, United States

Dear Honourable Ministers:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America to express our congratulations on signing the historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) on North American climate change and clean energy. As JPAC members (current and former) representing Canada, Mexico and the United States for over twenty years, we have worked steadfastly to increase citizen participation and transparency in the actions of the Commission, and promote environmental cooperation in ecosystem protection and sustainable economic development, including clean energy and climate change. Thus we applaud this timely and significant advance.

On its creation in 1994 by a formal environmental agreement adopted in parallel with the North American Free Trade Agreement, the CEC set a significant precedent. We believe that the CEC and JPAC are still as relevant today as they were in 1994. In fact, this MOU demonstrates the important strides our countries have made since then, in building a space for a continental approach to addressing complex environmental issues, like connecting climate change and clean energy.

However, completing the next step, which is an agreement, will be hard work. Therefore, as the JPAC Chair, I encourage you to leverage the investment already made by our governments into joint science, research, databases, and public consultation mechanisms and outcomes to assist you with your work. The results achieved by this trilateral investment are immeasurable, and are at your disposal through the CEC (www.cec.org).

We, as the public arm of the Commission, have also done a substantial amount of work in terms of raising important issues and potential solutions, based on input from citizens and experts to policy discussions relevant to this MOU. Over the past few years, JPAC has held numerous sessions on the key environmental issues facing our region, including on climate change and clean energy. In the spirit of many years of trilateral collaboration and a renewed commitment to climate change, we would be honored to have you, and your officials, attend one of our upcoming sessions, to see for yourself the valuable input provided by JPAC, expert panels and citizens from all three countries.



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)
Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

Thank you in advance and we hope you will look at the CEC as a resource and supporter that can play a role in helping you achieve your new agreement.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Brumwell
JPAC Chair for 2016

c.c. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico
Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency
CEC Alternative Representatives
CEC Executive Director César Rafael Chávez
JPAC members