

30 October 2013

Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Environment, Canada

Juan José Guerra
Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico

Gina McCarthy
Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) to bring to your attention a series of issues that were raised by our membership during the recently held session in Washington, DC. Please note that a formal advice on the outcome of the meeting, along with a report on our efforts for the 20th anniversary of the NAAEC, will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

We are very concerned about the current budgetary situation. We fully understand the existing economic pressures that our three governments face; however, the recent reduction of resources in the 2013 budget has negatively affected the Secretariat's ability to fulfill its mandate, and impacted our ability to properly engage stakeholders from North America during our meeting in DC. This unfortunate situation comes at a time when public participation is more important than ever. As you are aware, a large part of the public's involvement would not be possible without funding, either in-person participation or via webcast in three languages. Any reduction will make it increasingly difficult for the Secretariat and the JPAC to conduct our mandate, and we therefore request that you reinstate the funding to its original amount of \$9 million.

We understand from your officials that you are considering holding an intersessional meeting this coming January in Ottawa. As you know, JPAC typically meets early in the year to discuss our work plan and priorities. We would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you, as is usually done at the time of the Council session, to provide you with an update on our plans and to discuss ways to enhance our collaboration to mark next year's 20th anniversary.

Lastly, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a full membership. We understand that both Canada and Mexico are in the midst of announcing their outstanding appointments, and would urge the United States to follow suit, particularly given the chairmanship of JPAC next year will fall on a US member.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to engage with you and your officials during our meetings, and given the urgency of the matters raised, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



David Angus
JPAC Chair for 2013

cc JPAC Members
Irasema Coronado, CEC Executive Director