

Mr. Robert Varney  
Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
700 Rue de la Gauchetière Ouest Suite 1620  
Montréal QC H3B 5M2

**Re: Advice to Council 20-01**

Dear Mr. Varney,

On behalf of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Council, I would like to thank you for sharing the April 2020 Joint Public Advisory Committee's (JPAC) advice 20-01 on the outcome of the public consultation process for the development of the 2021-2025 Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Strategic Plan.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for the JPAC successfully adapting to the challenges presented by the ongoing public health crisis to ensure adequate public consultation on the draft strategic plan through the adoption of virtual means. As the CEC endeavours to continuously improve its public consultation efforts, the ability to adjust and innovate is critical in ensuring CEC activities and priorities reflect the views of the North American public.

As the Parties moved through the development process for the 2021-2025 CEC Strategic Plan, we relied on the JPAC to provide sound advice on opportunities and priorities for the CEC in the coming five years. This includes the advice we received from the JPAC in the fall of 2019 on the proposed pillars of the Strategic Plan, and through the JPAC's participation at the strategic planning retreat in Washington, D.C. in early 2020. The ongoing input received throughout the process was valuable in the development of the Strategic Plan.

We were pleased to note the JPAC's continued support for the five strategic pillars proposed in the plan, and that many of the public's comments are addressed by the priorities presented in the draft plan. This includes creating linkages between North American networks and experts, engaging the private sector, promoting healthy ecosystems across CEC work, collaborating with our Indigenous and tribal partners, and strengthening environmental law enforcement.

We also note that this advice provided some new perspectives for the Council to consider, including ensuring that CEC priorities recognize the unique circumstances of disadvantaged communities, promote creative approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources such as forests, and streamline ecosystem protection and conservation. These comments proved helpful in the final stage of development for the 2021-2025 CEC Strategic Plan.

Once again, on behalf of the Council I would like to thank the JPAC for providing this advice, allowing us to represent North American public perspectives in the 2021-2025 CEC Strategic Plan. As we navigate this new phase of our cooperative relationship with the entry into force of a

renewed environmental cooperation agreement, we are confident that the JPAC will continue to play an essential role in ensuring the views of the North American public inform CEC activities and operations in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Catherine Stewart  
Alternate Representative of Canada

cc. Mr. Chad McIntosh, Alternate Representative of the United States of America  
Dr. Rodolfo Godínez Rosales, Alternate Representative of the United States of Mexico  
Mr. Richard Morgan, CEC Executive Director  
Ms. Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer