

***A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:***

**A CALL TO ENACT A CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS**

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

Whereas Canadians share a deep concern for our environment and recognize its inherent value;

Whereas Canadians understand that a healthy and ecologically balanced environment is inextricably linked to the health of individuals, families and communities;

Whereas Canadians have an individual and collective responsibility to protect the environment of Canada for the benefit of present and future generations;

Whereas Canadians want to assume full responsibility for their environment, and not to pass their environmental problems on to future generations;

Whereas Canadians understand the close linkages between a healthy and ecologically balanced environment and Canada's economic, social, cultural and intergenerational security;

Whereas Canadians have an individual and collective right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment;

Whereas action or inaction that results in significant environmental harm could compromise the life, liberty and security of the person and be contrary to section 7 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

Whereas the Government of Canada is the trustee of Canada's environment within its jurisdiction and is therefore responsible for protecting the environment for present and future generations of Canadians;

Whereas the Government of Canada has consistently made commitments to the international community on behalf of all Canadians to protect the environment for the benefit of the world;

Whereas the Government of Canada's ability to protect the environment is enhanced when the public is engaged in environmental protection;

Whereas Canadians seek to enhance and protect their ability to participate directly in environmental decision-making, to access environmental justice and to hold the Government of Canada accountable for the discharge of its environmental protection responsibilities;

And whereas Canadians want improved access to courts and administrative tribunals so that individuals, communities and public interest organizations may take action to protect our environment;

**THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, call on the House of Commons to enact legislation to implement an environmental bill of rights, such as Bill C-469, which has been introduced in the House of Commons.**

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**Please return to:** Linda Duncan, M.P. for Edmonton Strathcona Room 925, Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6