



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

OCT 13 2016

Mr. Brian Burchill
Chair
The Association for Responsible and Environmentally
Sustainable Sewage Treatment
b.burchill@shaw.ca

Dear Mr. Burchill:

Thank you for your follow-up correspondence of September 8, 2016, concerning the application of the *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations* in the Capital Regional District (CRD).

I would like to assure you that I value your input and that your comments on this issue have been reviewed. As noted in my previous correspondence, the governments of Canada and British Columbia agree that secondary wastewater treatment is the mandatory minimum level required to ensure appropriate environmental protection. For wastewater systems across the country where untreated and undertreated wastewater is discharged, such as in the CRD, the Regulations objectively accounted for site-specific circumstances in the determination of the timeline to achieve at least a secondary level of treatment.

The CRD's decision to move forward with the development of tertiary wastewater treatment systems is in compliance with federal requirements and a move informed by science and data that will provide significant, long-term environmental and economic benefits.

I note your request to have my Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson, meet with representatives of the Association for Responsible and Environmentally Sustainable Sewage Treatment, marine scientists and a public health officer while he was in Victoria the week of September 11. Unfortunately, as a result of scheduling constraints, he was unable to meet with your delegation.

I appreciate your continued interest in this important issue, and I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

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