

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

NOV 19 2018

Ms. Lisa Wardley
Chair
Northwest Species at Risk Committee
4511 – 46 Avenue
Fort Vermilion, Alberta T0H 1N0

Dear Ms. Wardley:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 27, 2018, about Canada's commitments to the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity and the impact that increased federal and provincial protected spaces may have on the Northwestern Alberta region.

As you are aware, provinces and territories have primary responsibility for the management of lands, natural resources and wildlife, including caribou. However, in 2012, the Government of Canada released a Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), developed in consultation with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments, which called upon provinces and territories to develop range plans to demonstrate how they would protect the threatened species' critical habitat within their jurisdictions. The development and publication of the Recovery Strategy was a requirement of the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The Government of Canada is now working with provinces and territories to advance these plans as well as other conservation measures.

We are working with Environment and Climate Change Canada to ensure that any potential federal actions related to boreal caribou take socio-economic impacts into account. In collaboration with provinces and territories, the federal government has established a national working group on boreal caribou to share information, expertise and best practices, and to inform federal socio-economic impact analysis. My department will continue to leverage our partnerships and industry expertise to support Environment and Climate Change Canada's impact analysis and advance species recovery, while maintaining the multiple socio-economic benefits of the natural resource sector. Our collective actions to support species at risk, including boreal caribou, must maximize recovery and minimize socio-economic impacts.

Canada⁺

Natural Resources Canada's science informs forest management and restoration standards, and helps predict the impact of climate change on caribou habitats with greater accuracy. Specifically, work is underway with the forest and oil and gas industries in Alberta to test new reforestation techniques on linear corridors and share best practices. Our government recognizes the importance of developing our resources in a sustainable manner that protects Canada's rich natural environment, respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and supports the resilience of natural resource industries. I will continue to work with my Cabinet colleagues to support Canada's natural resources sector.

As you may also be aware, the Senate has indicated that it will review the Bill C-69 legislation carefully and recommend amendments to the legislation. Rest assured that I have paid particular attention to submissions from Alberta's oil and gas stakeholders and I am working hard to ensure their input helps to inform Bill C-69's implementing regulations. In the end, Bill C-69's goal is to get good projects built under clear timelines. I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

I encourage you to contact Beth MacNeil, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service, to share the perspectives of the municipalities your organization represents and to inform the impact analysis currently being conducted. She can be reached by email at beth.macneil2@canada.ca. I have also forwarded your correspondence to my colleague, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, who can best address your concerns regarding the need to engage local level governments on Canada's biodiversity targets and commitments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sohi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change