



Bonita Zarrillo

Member of Parliament | Députée
Port Moody-Coquitlam

13 January 2022

Gitane De Silva – CEO
Mr. Jean-Denis Charlebois – Secretary of the Commission of the Canada Energy Regulator
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The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Canada
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Open Letter Re: TMX Pipeline Re-Routing under the Fraser River

Dear Ms. De Silva, Mr. Charlebois, and Minister Wilkinson,

We are writing to you today to raise our concerns about Trans Mountain's re-routing request of the TMX pipeline in Coquitlam. We also ask that Canada Energy Regulator's (CER's) approval of this request does not go ahead and that work is halted until current reports and studies have been conducted, submitted and reviewed.

The first drilling route was halted to deal with equipment failure during placement of pipe under the Fraser River from Surrey to Coquitlam. This issue surfaced soon after a sinkhole was found on a major roadway and after drilling fluid was released into a Coquitlam watercourse. More troubling is that the Federal government-owned Trans Mountain is alleged to have ignored the advice of its expert consultants who recommended more test drilling as well as highlighted concerns about its choice of standard horizontal direct drilling on soft and untested soils.

On 22 December 2021, Trans Mountain announced it would relocate and redrill part of its new Fraser River pipeline tunnel. Taken with the other issues at this location, the announcement infers the

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application of trial and error, and raises concerns about the risks of this project and its management. In the case of this section of pipeline, the world's greatest salmon producing river is at risk.

The Fraser River is home to all five species of Pacific salmon. Natural and human-caused threats to this keystone BC species and its habitat are pushing once-abundant Fraser River ecosystems to the edge. These salmon populations have already seen significant declines in recent years. Another event, such as the equipment failure that has already occurred, could lead to the demise of entire salmon populations.

Along with the environmental concerns of this project, we also are echoing the concerns that the Kwikwetlem Nation have expressed directly to CER about artifacts in that area, which is known to have rich archeological significance.

We are concerned that decisions on the re-routing of the TMX pipeline may be made based upon older studies, the most recent of which was done in 2018. We ask that Trans Mountain's re-routing request not be approved until due diligence has been undertaken and proper studies have been conducted, submitted to and reviewed by CER before further damage is done to the Fraser River, its ecosystems and the communities of Coquitlam and Kwikwetlem that will be directly impacted.

Thank you for your due consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bonita Zarrillo MP, Port Moody--Coquitlam
NDP Critic – Infrastructure and Communities



Laurel Collins MP, Victoria
NDP Critic – Environment and Climate Change



Taylor Bachrach
NDP Deputy Critic – Infrastructure and
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NDP BC Caucus Chair



Lisa Marie Barron MP, Nanaimo--Ladysmith
NDP Critic. Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian
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Peter Julian MP, New Westminster--Burnaby
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Jenny Kwan MP, Vancouver East
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