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Gustavo Alanis-Orteja, Chair
Joint Public Advisory Committee
North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation
393, rue St-Jacques Ouest, Bureau 200
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9

Attention: mpepin@ccemtl.org

Re: JPAC Review of Citizen Submission Process

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Oldman River (FOR) to express our support for a strong, effective Article 14/15 Process.

FOR believes that one of the most important purposes of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation is to ensure that environmental laws of the three countries that are part of NAFTA do not weaken their enforcement of their environmental laws.

FOR made a submission on the general failure of the Government of Canada to enforce and comply with the Fisheries Act and CEAA. Unfortunately, because the Council narrowed the scope of the factual record, the Factual Record that was produced did not address the topic of our submission. It is our position that the Council had no right to narrow the scope of our factual record and was wrong to do so.

Regarding sufficiency of information, it is the Secretariat's responsibility, not council's to determine whether sufficient information has been submitted to warrant preparation of a factual record.

Since Article 14/15 submissions do not result in legally binding decisions, the main benefit from factual records is the ability to make public a government's failure to enforce its laws.

I encourage JPAC to make strong recommendations to Council regarding these issues.

sincerely,

Martha Kostuch