



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)

Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

12 December 2003

The Honorable David Anderson
Minister of the Environment (Canada)

Ing. Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez
Secretary, Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resource (Mexico)

Governor Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Council Members,

During their 20-21 November 2003 meeting in Montreal, the Alternate Representatives noted the importance of improving the substance and effectiveness of your annual meeting with the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation at the time of the Council session. JPAC applauds this overture and in this spirit, offers the following observations and recommendations.

Over the past year, JPAC has noticed a marked decline in attendance by government representatives at our regular sessions. This creates a great deal of difficulty in maintaining active lines of communication. It is reasonable for JPAC to expect that the governments would send a representative to each of our meetings in order to be available to respond to questions and bring issues back to each of you. We urge you to correct this situation.

On a related matter is the issue of timeliness of response to our advice and letters. Despite repeated assurances otherwise, we continue to receive responses months later and typically a day prior to a meeting, leaving little time for preparation.

JPAC members give of their expert time, as volunteers, to provide honest opinions, advice and information to our partners in the CEC—Council and the Secretariat. In this spirit, we urge you to direct your representatives to improve the situation, allowing all of us to be better prepared and equipped to have constructive, forward-looking discussions during the regular session of Council.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Alanís Ortega
JPAC Chair for 2003

c.c. CEC Alternate Representatives
CEC Executive Director
NAC/GAC Chairs
JPAC Members