



House of Commons  
Chambre des communes

February 24, 2016

Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of the Environment  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing you today to bring to your attention a potentially significant air quality issue. You may be aware that the Marathon Petroleum Corporation operates a crude oil refinery in Detroit MI in close proximity to the Canada/US border. Recently this facility applied to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to install a Gasoil Hydrotreater in order to boost their overall refining capacity and efficiency.

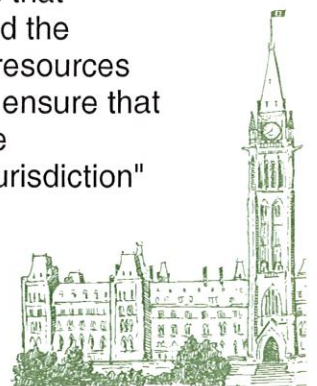
Unfortunately, if this project does proceed it will also boost toxic emissions. MDEQ's assessment of the project indicates that as proposed this project will increase the Sulfur Dioxide emissions alone by nearly 40%.

The Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement provides a legal mechanism whereby you can evaluate the impact that this proposed project will have on Canadian citizens. We are asking you to use this tool to assess the effect this project will have on Canadian citizens in Windsor and Essex County.

The International Joint Commission may be able to assist you with respect to determining the extent to which the air quality in Canada will be diminished as a result of this project.

The environmental health impacts for everyone in the region are a concern however the Canadian government does have standing to invoke some measure of legal jurisdiction here by virtue of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. The pertinent section reads as follows:

Reaffirming Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration, which provides that "States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction"



In our region the Town of LaSalle recently passed a motion asking you to intervene. I have included a copy of their unamended resolution here as an enclosure. At the time of the writing of this letter the official minutes from LaSalle's February 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting remain unpublished. The approved version of the resolution is nearly identical to this and directs Council from a substantive perspective to take the action directed in the enclosed (here) version of the resolution.

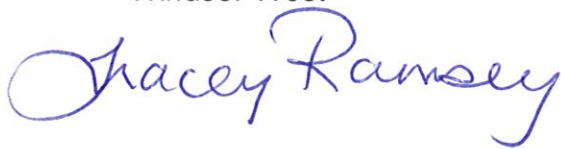
I will forward the amended resolution as soon as it is available.

This is a problem for Canadian citizens in our community, many of whom have already expressed their concern to our offices and to MDEQ directly. The refinery's location coupled with the prevailing winds in the region will impact air quality for Canadian citizens. We are urging you to investigate and if necessary to take the appropriate steps to ensure that the environmental health of Canadians in the Windsor/Essex region is sufficiently protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse".

Brian Masse M.P.  
Windsor West

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Ramsey".

Tracey Ramsey M.P.  
Essex

CC: Gordon Walker—International Joint Commission Commissioner; Canadian Chair  
Lana Pollack—International Joint Commission Commissioner; United States  
Chair

Encl.(1)