

July 31, 2020

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

We write to you to strongly urge that the federal Ministry not undertake a second, costly and unnecessary duplication of the British Columbia government's ongoing environmental impact review of Teck Resources' proposed Castle Project coal mine extension of the existing Fording River Operation in north eastern BC.

Resource Works is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization which supports the responsible development of BC's natural resources to create jobs and incomes throughout the province, both directly and indirectly, while maintaining a clean and health environment.

Resource Works is very aware of the significant contribution metallurgical coal mining makes to the success of local Elk Valley communities, the province and Canada.

Our organization conducted an economic impact report in 2015 which found that:

- Operational spending on goods and services exceeded \$1 billion
- Jobs were provided for 3,673 workers at Elk Valley steelmaking coal mines and an additional 320 supporting coal operations at other Teck locations throughout BC.
- Total estimated direct wages in 2014 amounted to \$457.6 million
- 345 full-time jobs were generated by just six of the company's key suppliers, with a total added payroll of \$34.5 million in 2014

[Minister, our report can be found at: <https://www.resourceworks.com/elk-valley-coal> ]

Resource Works knows that since 2015, the importance of coal mining in the Elk Valley has only increased. Currently over 4,000 direct and 11,000 indirect jobs are sustained by mining steel-making coal in the region and through the supply chain throughout BC.

Not only are these jobs critical to the local, provincial and federal economy, but so are the substantial tax revenues received by all three levels of government from workers and managers employed at the mines but also from those indirect jobs connected to mining and exporting coal. And there are also significant corporate taxes paid by Teck Resources and the businesses large and small that help transport metallurgical coal to markets around the world.

Teck's commitment to the pursuit of continual improvement in environmental performance issues, such as water stewardship, energy use and climate change is authentic, as evidenced through independent reporting.

Minister Wilkinson, we encourage you to not duplicate at considerable cost to federal taxpayers the ongoing comprehensive environmental assessment undertaken by BC's Environmental Assessment Office.

Resource Works firmly believes not only that the BC process is more than able to effectively review the project and make any recommendations necessary but also that adding a second federal environmental review would be a negative signal to Canadian companies and the world that this country has very onerous roadblocks to developing and exporting natural resources.

It would give notice internationally that Canada is not a welcoming country for investment in mining or other important industries that provide jobs, economic activities and tax revenues that we need more than ever with the financial crisis caused by COVID-19.

We urge you to allow the BC environmental assessment to do the task it has been assigned and not duplicate efforts unnecessarily and at great cost to Canada in many ways.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely yours,  
<Original signed by>

Stewart Muir,  
Executive Director  
Resource Works

c.c. Fraser Ross, Project Manager, Pacific & Yukon Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Castle Project Office