

From: <Email address removed>
Sent: June 14, 2021 12:22:28 PM
To: [Ministre / Minister \(EC\)](#)
Subject: Regional Assessment for Coal Mining in Alberta
Sensitivity: Normal
Attachments:
SAGELetterRegionalAssessment2021.pdf;

Please accept the attached letter in support of a Regional Assessment for coal mining in Alberta.

Sincerely,
Braum Barber





A leading voice for a healthy and environmentally sustainable community

408 14 St. S. Lethbridge AB T1J 2X7

sage-communications@sage-environment.org

15 June, 2021

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

Re: **Support for Regional Assessment** of Coal Development and Exploration Activity in Southwest Alberta

Since 1984, Southern Alberta Group for Environment, based in Lethbridge AB, has been a leading voice for a healthy and environmentally sustainable community. For the last year we have been informing ourselves and others in our community about proposed coal mines in the Oldman River headwaters and advocating for rigorous environmental assessment, including cumulative effects assessment. Assessment of the impacts of coal development in our headwaters cannot be dealt with appropriately on a project-by-project basis, nor should it be solely within the purview of our provincial government given arbitrary rescission of the 1976 provincial Coal Policy and all the aspects of federal jurisdiction that are affected.

We are writing to express our support for the submission by Ecojustice (28 May, 2021) on behalf of Niitsitapi Water Protectors, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter and Livingstone Landowners Group to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada requesting the Agency recommend “a committee of independent experts to conduct a regional assessment of the potential adverse effects of existing or future metallurgical coal mining activities that fall within federal jurisdiction over a geographical region that includes the Rocky Mountains and the Eastern Slopes of southwest Alberta and the Elk Valley of southeast British Columbia, and include an analysis of different scenarios regarding the pace and scale of future development of metallurgical coal mining in the region and an analysis the future global market for metallurgical coal”.

Areas of federal jurisdiction include impacts on fish and fish habitat, impacts on critical habitat of species at risk (whitebark pine, limber pine, grizzly bear), impacts on exercising of rights by First Nations and Indigenous peoples, impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and fugitive methane emissions, and transboundary impacts.

You may wish to order a 45-day extension of time to allow more complete gathering of information prior to making your decision.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely

<Original signed by>

Braum Barber
Chair, SAGE