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Brian Masse

MP/ Député

December 5, 2019

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

HAND DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent election victory and appointment to the Environment and Climate Change Minister. As the NDP Critic for Great Lakes issues, I look forward to working with you closely to protect the Great Lakes waterways and surrounding areas from the numerous dangers these vital waters are facing.

Today I am writing regarding the Revere Copper site on the American side of the Detroit River, and connected to my riding of Windsor, Ontario. I was sent the attached photos of the Revere Copper site where, I have been made aware, there was a major dock collapse there on November 27, 2019. This dock collapse was most likely due to the weight of the aggregate stored by Detroit Bulk Storage on site.

For your information, this location once had radioactive contamination and was a former munitions site for the United States Department of Defence. This site is currently rated high for contamination because of the residual contamination present. A study done prior to the decision constructing the new bridge between my riding and Detroit, Michigan, suggested that further study was required before land use could be determined because of the contamination at that site (see attached DRIC study outlining the potential dangers of the Revere Copper Site).

I am asking that Environment and Climate Change Canada undertake an immediate binational investigation into this dock collapse, in conjunction with our United States counterparts, to determine the effects of the contamination on our waterways and surrounding environment. Forty million people rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water and it is vital that we protect citizens, and the entire ecosystem, from any potential hazards.

Further, the International Joint Commission (IJC) should be made aware of the collapse and should also be instructed to investigate the situation for both short and long-term effects on health and environmental concerns.

Lastly, and as I have called for in the past, I am calling on your government to create a Great Lakes Minister to deal with the multitude of threats facing the Great Lakes. From such incidents as this dock collapse to

high water levels, plastic pollution, invasive species and toxic algae, it is more important than ever that your government takes immediate steps to protect these important waters for years to come.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. I am happy to meet with you to discuss this further. I look forward to your prompt response about what actions you will be taking on this dock collapse.

Yours truly,



Brian Masse MP
Windsor West
NDP Innovation, Science and Industry Critic & Great Lakes Critic
Vice-Chair, Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

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