



February 20, 2015

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Dear Central Coast Regional District Council,

Central Coast Regional District

I am writing to ask for your support for my Bill C-628, *An Act to Defend the Pacific Northwest*, which I tabled in Parliament in September. This bill will protect BC's pristine North Coast from the threat of oil supertankers and the Northern Gateway pipeline and supertanker project. A vote on this important bill is expected at the end of March, and I am writing to seek your help to spread the word.

Over the past year, I have toured across British Columbia from Prince George to Powell River, from Kamloops to Kitimat, talking to thousands of Canadians about our coast and how we can protect it from the devastation of a diluted bitumen supertanker spill. Our campaign has been a strong success, and we are gaining momentum.

As we approach this crucial vote, I am seeking your help in signing as many names to this campaign as possible from across British Columbia to show Conservatives MP's from BC that our numbers are great – and that how they choose to vote on Bill C-628 will be remembered when voters go to the polls in the October election.

Attached you will find a copy of the backgrounder on the *Act to Defend the Pacific Northwest*, as well as a copy of our petition which I encourage you to share widely with your friends, family, and colleagues. You can also sign on digitally and download the petition at www.takebackourcoast.ca.

We all share a stake in protecting our beautiful coast. It is my hope that you'll join me in this important initiative before Canada's Parliament.

Best wishes,

Nathan Cullen, MP
Skeena--Bulkley Valley

Board Meeting
 MAR 12 2015
 CCRD ITEM F(9)



Bill C-628 An Act to Defend the Pacific Northwest **BACKGROUND**

Background: The *Act to Defend the Pacific Northwest* is a bill designed to fully and finally stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline in its tracks. The bill will also change the work of the National Energy Board toward a process that respects communities and First Nations, and puts Canadian energy security first. Inspired, in part, by the experience of Northwest BC and our fight against the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline, Nathan's bill would legislate immediate protection for BC's pristine North Coast from the threat of oil tankers, while addressing key concerns raised by the poor process that led the Conservative government to approve the pipeline. Stephen Harper's Conservatives have shut out communities and First Nations from the conversation, and failed to look at the long-term economic and environmental impacts of runaway "rip-and-ship" development.

North Coast tanker ban: Nathan's bill would finally ban supertankers from transporting oil across the North Coast of British Columbia for the first time in history. This region is one of the most environmentally, culturally and historically important areas in our country – and some of the most difficult waters in the world, with waves up to 26 metres high and winds up to 185km/h. This bill is also an opportunity for all Members of Parliament, especially those from British Columbia, to stand up against Enbridge's pipeline and to Ottawa's bullying tactics to send 11,000 supertankers through these sensitive and important waters.

Making the NEB more accountable: The Harper government has taken away the voice of the people who will be most impacted by pipeline projects in Canada. Thousands of people wrote letters and testified before the Northern Gateway joint review panel, municipalities and the province of British Columbia formally declared their opposition, and 130 First Nations signed a declaration opposing Northern Gateway, only to have their views virtually ignored by the Harper Conservatives. Nathan's bill would make the National Energy Board more accountable for ensuring adequate consultation occurs between the federal government and First Nations, provincial and municipal governments, and local communities impacted by a proposed project – and for ensuring the concerns raised by Canadians are reflected in the Board's final decisions. Bill C-628 will complement the significant Supreme Court decisions that have strengthened rights and title for First Nations people.

Energy security: Review panels assessing pipeline proposals are not presently required to consider the impacts of projects on jobs and energy security in Canada. Exporting raw bitumen, as is the case under the Northern Gateway proposal, does not only mean shipping our raw resources to foreign jurisdictions with weaker environmental standards. It also means shipping out potential tax revenues, as well as Canadian jobs and energy security. Bill C-628 would give the National Energy Board a mandate to assess the impacts of proposed pipelines on employment in Canada's upgrading and refining sectors, and ask it to consider whether a pipeline project will add value to natural resources in Canada as part of its public interest criteria. Bill C-628 also complements Nathan's advocacy for a stronger green economy, and the NDP's commitments to implementing a "polluter-pay" model, putting a price on carbon, and eliminating the \$1.3 billion subsidy to the oil industry.

