

**Jennifer Rice, MLA**  
(North Coast)  
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**Province of  
British Columbia**  
Legislative Assembly

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(North Coast)

Jan. 23, 2016

Dear Lax Kw'alaams hereditary chiefs, elected council and members:

We are writing as the BC NDP MLAs representing the northwest part of the province encompassing the Skeena River watershed and its estuary to express our support for your efforts to protect Skeena River wild salmon and all that depends on them by ensuring industrial development in the form of the proposed Pacific Northwest LNG facility does not take place on Lelu Island.

We believe any decision regarding the proposed development:

- must recognize aboriginal title held by the Lax Kw'alaams and the pre-requisites of consultation and consent laid out in Supreme Court of Canada decisions such as those in William (Tsil'qotin) and Delgamuukw/Gisday'wa (Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en);
- must give the highest consideration to peer-reviewed science such as conducted and published by Dr. Patrick McLaren and Jonathan Moore whose research on Flora Banks and area points to the conclusion that irreparable damage to that critical juvenile salmon habitat could occur with the current facility design;
- must take into account that industrial development in the form of a 1973 proposal for a superport at this site was rejected by government agencies due to the unacceptable risk to fisheries.

(continued...)

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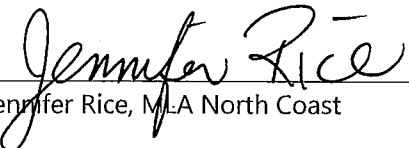
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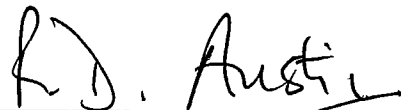
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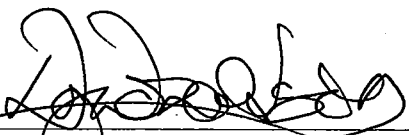
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For these reasons we share your perspective that the proposed facility poses an unacceptable risk to the Flora Bank habitat that is an irreplaceable link in the Skeena River salmon ecosystem.

Yours truly,

  
Jennifer Rice, MLA North Coast

  
Robin Austin, MLA Skeena

  
Doug Donaldson, MLA Stikine