

Leader of the  
Government in the Senate and  
Minister of State (Seniors)



Leader du  
gouvernement au Sénat et  
ministre d'État (Aînés)

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A4

The Honourable      L'honorable  
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.,c.p.

August 4, 2009

Jamie Kneen  
MiningWatch Canada  
Suite 508, City Centre Building  
250 City Centre Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 6K7

Dear Mr. Kneen,

Thank you very kindly for your recent letter concerning Bill C-24, the Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement. I appreciate the time you have taken to express your opinion on this important issue.

Firstly, I would like to express that it was with sincere regret that our Government learned of the tragic violence that occurred in the Amazon region of Peru on June 8, 2009. We certainly encourage the Peruvian people and Peru's members of Parliament to find the solutions necessary to prevent these problems from occurring in the future. It is important to note, however, that this tragic loss of life was not the result of Bill C-24.

There is no question: development of new market opportunities and respect for human rights are complementary. With this agreement, Peru is now subject to the International Labour Organization guidelines on labour and the rights of workers. This also includes the elimination of child labour, making sure there are certain health and safety occupational rules in place, and dealing with possible discrimination against workers or people in unions. By signing this agreement, Peru has bound itself to respecting all of these conditions.

The Free Trade Agreement with Peru will also help increase the competitiveness of Canadian exporters and service providers in several sectors including manufacturing, agriculture and agri-food, financial services, mining, oil and gas.

Canada

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about our Government's announcement of a new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy. These new measures, announced in March, will help Canadian mining, oil and gas companies meet and exceed their social and environmental responsibilities when operating abroad.

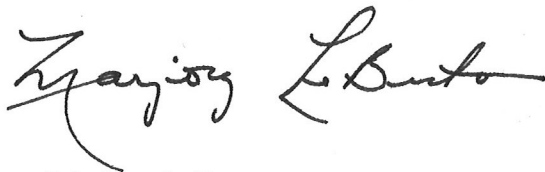
The specific initiatives incorporated in the CSR include:

- the creation of a new Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor to assist in resolving social and environmental issues relating to Canadian companies operating abroad in this field;
- the establishment of a new Centre of Excellence as a one-stop shop to provide information for companies, non-governmental organizations and others;
- the continuation of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) assistance for foreign governments to develop their capacity to manage natural resource development in a sustainable and responsible manner;
- the promotion of internationally recognized voluntary Corporate Social Responsibility performance and reporting guidelines.

As you can see from the nature of these measures, our Government is committed to assisting Canadian companies in effectively and responsibly operating abroad.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me to express your opinion on this issue. It is my hope that the information that I have provided in this letter clarifies any misconceptions you may have had concerning Bill C-24, and solidifies our Government's commitment to social and environmental responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marjory LeBreton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marjory" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "LeBreton".

Marjory LeBreton