



**A leading voice for a healthy and environmentally sustainable community.**

Box 383 Lethbridge AB T1J 3E9

January 26, 2016

To: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada

Cc: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Linda Duncan, M.P., House of Commons  
Rachael Harder, M.P., House of Commons  
The Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks,  
Government of Alberta

From: Braum Barber, Southern Alberta Group for the Environment

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Dear Prime Minister,

The Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that advocates and advances environmental issues on behalf of our region. SAGE **supports** the private member's bill, Bill C-202, to enact the Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights.

A federal Environmental Bill of Rights would strengthen Canada's legal framework for protecting the environment and ensuring the rights of Canadians to a healthy environment. We believe it is time that Canada join the more than one hundred other countries in the world that have included environmental rights in their national constitution.

We fully support the principles of safeguarding the right of present and future generations of Canadians to a healthy environment, and to confirm the public trust in the Government of Canada as it relates to public stewardship and environmental law. We also support the more tangible proposal to ensure that Canadians have access to adequate environmental information and mechanisms for participating in environmental policymaking processes. Canadians should have the right to be informed on environmental issues, and have adequate legal protection against private or public reprisals for advocating for a healthy environment.

We understand that the Environmental Bill of Rights would relate only to issues that fall under federal jurisdiction, however, a strong statement from the federal government may encourage provinces that have not yet drafted similar legislation. A federal Environmental Bill of Rights would also stand as an interim step towards an explicit and more authoritative Charter right for Canadians to live in a healthy environment.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Barber", is written below the text "Your sincerely,".