

Letter Template for House Standing Committee

Environmental Rights in Canada

Instructions:

1. Copy-paste the letter template below into your email
 - a. Fill out all the words in phrases in brackets with information
 - b. Optional: further personalize the letter if interested
2. Send your letter to: ENVI@parl.gc.ca
3. Share this letter template and the [corresponding petition](#) with your network

Letter Template:

To the Honourable members of the House Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development,

My name is **[enter your first and last name here]**. I am a **[briefly describe your profession here, e.g., 'student at X university', 'nurse at X hospital' etc.]**. **[Optional: discuss relevant credentials here]**. I write to you with concerns about environmental protection and ongoing issues of environmental racism in marginalized communities throughout Canada.

You are currently reviewing Bill S-5, the proposed amendments to the 1999 Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). In its third reading earlier this year, the Senate introduced a change in the proposed amendments to constrain the bill's efficacy: it can now only "protect the right of every individual in Canada to a healthy environment as provided under this Act, *subject to any reasonable limits*", which are further described as "social, health, scientific and economic factors" ([Government of Canada](#)).

I am concerned that this right will be undermined by the requirement that this be limited by economic and other considerations. Further, doesn't this clause elevate economic and social considerations to the same status as foundational human rights? The recent UN [Special Report](#) on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment names Canada amongst countries which perpetrate "unconscionable environmental injustices, including 'sacrifice zones', where communities are exposed to extreme levels of pollution and toxic contamination". We desperately need strong legislation to ensure this right's efficacy to protect marginalized communities in Canada, all our futures, and nature.

The looming environmental crisis is just too important for this right to get watered down. Before sending this bill back to the House for its third reading I am requesting that you work to amend this language to read instead: ...“protect the right of every individual in Canada to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as provided under this Act”, as recommended by many [environmental groups](#) and [human rights lawyers](#). As MPs, each of you has the ability to propose the above change before December 6th. Please do so; we need a true right to a healthy environment to build just and sustainable futures.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing back about what can be done in committee to address this issue.

Sincerely,

[Enter your first and last name here]