

Dear PRR and Minister Heyman,

Yes, I wish my submission to be posted along with all others and to include the following letter to Minister Heyman which encapsulates the nub of my submission which is;

1 - Reviews of any projects or proposals which may have effects upon environment, wildlife, fish, humans, First Nations, land and water quality etc. should be done by qualified professionals.

2 - Those professionals must without exception be employed by the people of BC through their government and not by industries, unions, or others who have economic interests or ties to the outcome. Government is the only entity whose sole duty is to the people and Province of BC rather than to any self-interested entity. To give decision making power over these reviews inevitably invites conflict of interest and erodes the already fragile trust of government.

Re: the review itself. I sent the following letter Jan 17, 2018;

Dear Minister Heymann and Premier Horgan,

I have just completed the BC Gov't survey regarding the government's review of resource industries use of so-called "professional reliance". I am pleased that government sees fit to examine this ridiculous situation. Thank you.

However, I would not have known of this survey at all but for an email from Dogwood Initiative received Jan 16, only days before gov't's deadline for comments. This does not speak well of your interest in hearing from the public. No thanks to you for that.

I am unalterably opposed to letting those industries self-regulate via "professional reliance". It is a scam and must be ended.

One of the survey questions asked for comment upon the review itself.

Please read my response to that question;

About this review - I have very serious concerns about the way this survey is set up. First; comment is being solicited from QPs, "stakeholders", professional organizations, and the general public. The first three of these four categories are all beneficiaries of the present system. Bias in favour of the status quo [self-regulation] is assured. Second; I did not learn of this survey except by notification from the Dogwood Initiative, not from Government, and then not until Jan 16. I would not have known of it otherwise. I can only assume that the general public will be under-represented. Third; The first question asks how knowledgeable is the respondent. The question following this one asks the same question a bit differently. As a member of the public I have some knowledge from personal experience but no day to day professional involvement. It would be easy to sharply discount or under-weight responses from the general public who, if answering honestly, would report themselves as not knowledgeable in this area.

I am 77 years old, well-educated, and have lived in resource "extraction" communities since approximately 1960 (East coast and West coast) Every one of them has seen its primary industry evaporate due to lax or non-existent government regulation. I am referring to fisheries, mining, and forest industry towns. The fishing fleet is gone, the mines are abandoned, the forests are depleted and the mills closed.

You have a few years in office and a lot on your plate. Stop calculating likely votes in the next election and just do what's right. That might do your political fortunes much more good than badly written surveys like this one.

Yours truly,

Martin Hykin

(Who has received not one single reply to any of the many letters I have written to any gov't Minister)