



CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - PHILIPPINES

Office address#26 Matulungin St., Central District, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1212-1152 Quezon City Central Post Office, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES

Telefax: (632) 920-9099 Email: cecphils@gmail.com

October 30, 2009

John McKay, MP. Liberal Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Canada

Date:

Dear Mr. McKay,

Re: Support for Bill C-300 on Corporate Accountability

I am representing the Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines, Inc (CEC), a duly-registered organization in the Philippines with 20 years of experience in environmental research, education, advocacy and community services. I write to let you know that I support Bill C-300, an Act respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil and Gas Corporations in Developing Countries.

Our years of working with communities in environmentally critical areas have exposed us to the sad realities of the poor farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, as well as workers in different parts of the country, who continually struggle to fight for their rights to be consulted on matters pertaining to the use and management of commons, who demand justice and rehabilitation for already destroyed and squandered natural resources leaving them with no sight of development or improvement of their well-being, and who merely want no more of round about discourses but a clear call to stop mining in their communities.

We are witness to the destruction, the loss of lives and livelihood, and violation of people's rights and their desire to live simply and peacefully. We cry out with our people for promises for livelihood which were not kept; for a future that is lost, not only for their families, but for the families of their children and their children's children. We remain shaken by relentless reports of how government military are used to defend mining operations, to harass well-meaning leaders and stifle communities, and to even snuff out lives of people who merely stand up to protect the environment and their communities. We also regret that while much of our rich mineral resources are lost to rich and foreign mining corporations, to developed and powerful countries like Canada, our country has been doomed to underdevelopment, to live with polluted land, water and air, and with aggravated vulnerabilities to geo-hazards and climate change impacts.

These are scenarios from mining operations in the Philippines and Canadian mining companies have been part of this. It is in this context that we support C-300 and every effort to make us get closer to our goal to find justice, rehabilitation, and genuine development for our people over the mining situation in our country.

Bill C-300 responds to the urgent need for a stronger regulatory framework to hold Canadian mining, oil and gas companies accountable, in Canada, for human rights, labour, and environmental violations overseas. Bill C-300 has garnered support across the country and

internationally. It is supported by the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability (CNCA), a coalition which includes prominent labour, ecumenical, environmental, social justice, and human rights organizations. Bill C-300 has my support as well.

I urge Members of Parliament and the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to support Bill C-300, recognizing that Bill C-300 reflects and responds to the recommendations that were made to the Government of Canada by the earlier Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2005.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances Q. Quimpo', written in a cursive style.

FRANCES Q. QUIMPO
Executive Director, Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines (CEC)
No. 26 Matulungin St.
Barangay Central Quezon City