



Cordillera Peoples Alliance

For the Defense of Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

JOHN MCKAY

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

October 20, 2009

Dear Mr. McKay,

Re: Support for Bill C-300 on Corporate Accountability

I am writing to let you know that my organization, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), strongly support Bill C-300, an Act respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil and Gas Corporations in Developing Countries. The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) is an independent federation of 198 peoples' organizations, most of them grassroots-based organizations among indigenous communities in the Cordillera region, northern Philippines. CPA is committed to the promotion and defense of indigenous peoples' rights, human rights, social justice, and national freedom and democracy.

We are aware that Canadian mining, oil and gas companies are involved in human rights, labour, and environmental violations around the world and the fact that these companies often receive financial and political support from the Canadian Government. From our experience, the Canadian mining company Olympus Pacific Minerals, Inc. has systematically violated the collective rights and human rights of the Binongan indigenous people in its Capcapo Project in Baay-Licuan, Abra province. Likewise, the Ivanhoe Mines Ltd., another Canadian mining company, is a shareholder of the infamous Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMCo) that has been operating underground bulk mining in Mankayan, Benguet since 1936 and is known for bringing about severe environmental degradation, unjust labor practices, loss of livelihood among the affected communities, and other socio-cultural mining impacts.

The current government's response to these concerns is its "Building the Canadian Advantage" strategy. This voluntary approach is completely inadequate.

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 our support as well.

We 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,

WINDEL BOLINGET
General Secretary

CC:

Kevin Sorenson, Chair, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development
Angela Crandall, Clerk, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

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