

April 3, 2001

Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, MLA  
Premier of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Mr. Gordon Campbell, MLA  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Premier and Mr. Campbell,

As you know, after nearly four years of deliberation, the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning process (LRMP) has recently tabled an important series of recommendations regarding forest conservation and management issues in areas of the coast that still contain large pristine watersheds.

If approved by the BC government the interim recommendations from the LRMP will establish a framework that will provide British Columbia with an opportunity to achieve a solution to forest issues on the Central and the North Coast that will be credible both locally and globally.

The forest companies and environmental groups listed below support the recommendations of the Central Coast LRMP. We fully recognize that there are uncertainties surrounding their implementation and much work needs to be done during the next 12 months. In particular, there are outstanding issues around funding for mitigation and development of an ecosystem-based approach to planning. We are committed to working with government, First Nations and other interests to ensure that the process for resolving outstanding issues is inclusive and the solutions that ultimately emerge are in the best interest of all British Columbians.

We believe the framework that has been proposed for the Central Coast is critical to the future of the coastal forest sector as a whole. It can help reposition coastal forest companies and communities to respond more effectively to a range of critical challenges, not only on the environmental front in relation to forest certification and conservation issues, but also in relation to issues involving economic diversification, market access and competition from other forest jurisdictions and products. A resolve on the Central Coast can also help increase support in BC and abroad for innovative policy reforms in British Columbia around stumpage, tenure and aboriginal title issues.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the pathway that has been charted by the Central Coast LRMP, First Nations and a variety of different stakeholders reflects a bipartisan approach that values pragmatism and cooperation over continued conflict. The latter is a very positive message for both British Columbia and the international marketplace.

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Letter to Premier Dosanjh  
& Opposition Leader Gordon Campbell  
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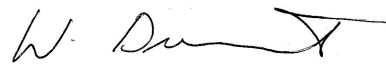
We urge you to support the package of proposals that have emerged from multi-party negotiations regarding the Central Coast including the LRMP recommendations and the proposed new protocol between First Nations and the BC government that will help ensure comprehensive First Nations participation in this initiative moving forward. We believe the opportunities created by these developments represent an important step in an ongoing process to resolve conflict over forest issues on the BC coast and deserve a place on the agenda of current and future governments of British Columbia.

We respectfully submit and strongly encourage that both the government and opposition parties take a careful, measured approach in making and responding to the announcement regarding the Central Coast that will be made on April 4/01.

Yours truly,



Linda Coady  
Weyerhaeuser, BC Coastal Group



Bill Dumont  
Western Forest Products



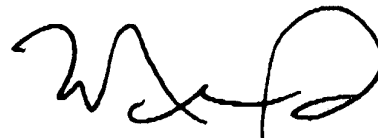
Deborah Somerville  
Norske Skög Canada



Mike Bradley  
Canadian Forest Products



Ric Slaco  
International Forest Products



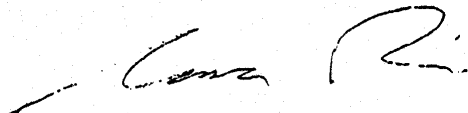
Merran Smith  
Sierra Club of BC



Tzaporah Berman  
ForestEthics/ Rainforest Action Network



Catherine Stewart  
Greenpeace Canada



Matt Price  
Natural Resources Defence Council

Cc: Honourable Gordon Wilson, Minister of Forests  
Honourable Glen Robertson, Minister of Energy & Mines  
Mr. George Abbott, MLA  
Mr. Murray Coell, MLA