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## Alistair MacGregor

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The Honourable Hunter Tootoo  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A0A6

Dear Minister Tootoo,

I am writing in regard to the contaminated soil landfill operated by South Island Aggregates in Shawnigan Lake, a beautiful part of my riding. I have spoken directly with the New Democratic Party's Fisheries critic, Fin Donnelly, MP for Port Moody—Coquitlam and he advised me to write directly to you as this is an urgent matter.

According to the Shawnigan Lake Area Director and the Shawnigan Residents' Association, the landfill poses an environmental risk to the aquatic life in the waterway as well as a fundamental risk to drinking water for the community. There are no plans to deal with a failure on the site or by the provincial ministry of the environment.

They also state that engineering failures are commonplace and all of the experts who testified during the ministry's hearings agreed that the site was not suitable for a contaminated soil dump. A soil dump on a community watershed does not make sense.

The Fisheries Protection Program role is to provide for sustainability and ongoing productivity of fisheries and to make regulatory decisions under the fisheries protection provisions of the Fisheries Act. The program is specifically responsible for reviewing projects for which a section 35(2)(b) Fisheries Act Authorization is required to ensure proponents avoid serious harm to fish.

A review of the project in Shawnigan Lake is imperative as it poses a significant risk to fish and fish habitat. I ask that you conduct a review of this site and work with provincial partners in stopping the project in the interest of protecting fish habitat.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alistair MacGregor  
Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc: Fin Donnelly, Member of Parliament for Port Moody—Coquitlam, NDP Critic for Fisheries