

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
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The Honourable Catherine McKenna,
Minister of Environment and Climate
Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

November 9th, 2015

RE: Petrona's Pacific Northwest LNG facility proposed for Lelu Island and Flora Banks

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister McKenna,

Our organizations have worked for decades to protect wild salmon habitat and today one of the most pressing concerns in British Columbia is a proposal to site an LNG project adjacent to Flora Banks; the most critical salmon habitat in the Skeena estuary. The Skeena River is Canada's second largest salmon river.

We urge you to reject this project outright because mitigation will not be possible. The importance of this specific site is long standing common knowledge in the scientific community. A recent study commissioned by Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, by Carr-Harris and Moore, has further quantified it's value; finding for instance that Flora Banks eelgrass is used by more than twenty times more salmon than any other eelgrass in the Skeena estuary.

Unlike other projects which can be mitigated by Canadian Environmental Assessment conditions which replace damaged salmon habitat, the drying Flora Bank and shouldering underwater Agnew Bank have such high salmon habitat value there is no replacement for it.

We urge you to protect the incredibly important Skeena salmon resource. Skeena river salmon are the lifeblood of the communities and ecosystem of the north coast and in the Skeena watershed. They are also an important source of nutrition and food security for locals, Canada and world export.

Sincerely,

Joy Thorkelson, Northern Representative United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union-Unifor

Des Nobels, Northern Outreach Coordinator, T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation

Charles Justice, President Prince Rupert Environmental Society

Sarah Chi Brown, Coordinator Friends of Digby Island

