

Ministry of  
the Environment

Office of the Minister

Toronto OI

Ministère de  
l'Environnement

Bureau de la ministre

Toronto ON



RECEIVED  
*Feb 7/07*

**JAN 29 2007**

The Right Honourable Herb Gray, PC, CC, QC  
Chair, Canadian Section  
International Joint Commission  
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6

IJC / CMI OTTAWA  
ACTION: Weiner  
INFO: Chair Gray/NH  
M. Clamen / FS / LB  
FEB 02 2007  
FILE / DOSSIER  
3-2-5-1 (112)

ENV1283MC-2006-5059

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2006 requesting Ontario's views on the 2006 Progress Report under the Canada-U.S. Air Quality Agreement.

As you are aware, Ontario is a member of the Canada-U.S. Air Quality Committee. In this capacity, Ontario had extensive opportunity to participate in the preparation of the report.

As you know, climate change, smog and transboundary air pollution pose a grave threat to the health of our citizens and the sustainability of our environment. Transboundary air pollution is a particular area of concern facing Ontario. Transboundary air pollution causes vast economic damage to our provinces, including billions of dollars in health costs, and is responsible for approximately 2,700 premature deaths, 12,000 hospital admissions and 14,000 emergency room visits annually.

The fact is that there is little Ontario can do on its own to remedy the situation. In some cases, such as Windsor, 90 percent of air pollutants causing smog are transported from south of the border. In Toronto, that number is 50 percent. Clearly, strong action on transboundary air pollution is vital to Ontario's economy and the health of its citizens.

Overall, Ontario finds the report comprehensive and thorough, offering background on key initiatives to protect air quality, and providing information on environmental data.

We look forward to supporting further efforts to protect air quality through on-going participation in the Canada-U.S. Air Quality Agreement process.

Yours truly,

Laurel C. Broten  
Minister of the Environment

