



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 14, 2009

Pipeline Pullout: North West Watch Applauds Terrace Mayor For Dumping Enbridge Lobby Group

(TERRACE) Terrace Mayor Dave Pernarowski made the right decision by pulling out of the Enbridge-funded Northern Gateway Alliance and Community Advisory Board, says the Terrace-based group North West Watch.

The Gateway Alliance is a group of politicians and businesspeople who support the proposed Enbridge pipelines. The Community Advisory Board is an Enbridge-led and funded group designed to manage community feedback regarding the project.

“Mayor Pernarowski’s decision to pull out of this industry front group is the right decision,” said North West Watch co-chair Julia Hill. “There is growing opposition to pipelines and oil tankers and regardless of his personal opinion we believe he has a duty to represent the broader views of the community.”

Both North West Watch and Friends of Wild Salmon are calling for a public inquiry into the Northern Gateway project. This would precede a proposed joint review panel – which focuses on the project’s technical aspects – by the National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

“A technical review is premature, because Enbridge and government need to address the broader question of whether people want oil pipelines and supertankers on our coast at all,” said Morgen Baldwin, co-chair of North West Watch. “A public inquiry is the only process that will give community members the opportunity to make a balanced and informed decision. We’re calling on our leaders to support our call for such a process.”

Organizations such as the Northern Gateway Alliance are commonly referred to as *astroturf* groups: public relations campaigns seeking to create the impression of spontaneous "grassroots" behaviour.

“Enbridge has \$100 million to create the impression that their project is safe,” added Hill. “But no amount of slick marketing can reduce the real risk of a major oil spill on our coast.”

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