



December 14, 2017

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
200 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Honourable Shannon Phillips,
Minister of Alberta Environment and
Parks
208 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Ministers McKenna and Phillips:

Our associations, (AUMA and AAMDC), represent Alberta's urban and rural municipalities, and recognize the importance of protecting and recovering Canada's woodland caribou populations. Our membership, however, in 2016 endorsed resolutions calling for a socio-economic approach to fully understand the impacts of species protection.

The local realities of municipalities must be captured to inform recovery and range plans that will achieve the best results for both humans and wildlife. Comprehensive socio-economic impact assessments should be completed for all species at-risk recovery and retention plans impacting the operations of provincial industries including but not limited to forestry, oil and gas, agriculture, tourism, and mineral exploration. Additionally, species at risk recovery strategies must be based on a thorough scientific assessment of all causes of species decline, including climate change, diseases, pathogens as well as human disturbances. This includes the integration of consideration of protection of multiple species, and community and stakeholder to foster positive outcomes for all parties.

As an example, forestry is one industry that plays an important role in Alberta's economic diversity and in the prosperity of Albertans. The forestry industry is Alberta's third largest resource industry and the lifeblood of 70 communities throughout the province. Approximately 19,600 Albertans are employed in forestry directly and 38,000 additional jobs have been created through related economic activity, contributing over \$5 billion to the provincial economy.

We look forward to working with both orders of government to protect Canada's wildlife and ensure the success of local communities and businesses. Thank you for considering our input in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

Al Kemmere
AAMDC President