



Office of the
Official Opposition

Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly

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The Honourable Warren Kaeding, E.C.S., M.L.A.
Minister of Environment
Room 30 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

The Honourable Fred Bradshaw, E.C.S., M.L.A.
Minister for the Water Security Agency
Room 322 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Kaeding and Minister Bradshaw:

I write to you today regarding concerns that have been shared with me from across Saskatchewan about the potential for long-term contamination of water supplies from proposed coal mining operations in Alberta.

As you may know, the Government of Alberta recently repealed long-standing protections against coal mining in sensitive areas of the Rocky Mountains. This has become a contentious political issue in Alberta and has garnered national and international attention in recent weeks. Allowing open-pit mining in the Rockies – which until very recently, were protected from such activity – could potentially contaminate the source waters of both the North Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan Rivers. These rivers are the major source of Saskatchewan's agricultural and drinking water supplies.

The risk of selenium contamination in these waters from mining activity could have long-lasting, disastrous effects on Saskatchewan. Open-pit coal mining on the other side of the Rockies in British Columbia has damaged fish populations and contaminated drinking water.

Respectfully, I ask that you urgently raise this matter with the Government of Alberta and implore them to restore all of the protections that were removed when the 1976 coal policy was repealed last year.

Thank you for considering of this important matter for people in our province.

Sincerely,

Erika Ritchie, M.L.A.
Official Opposition Environment Critic

