I have written a personal explanation of why I, and we feel, that Bill C-69 should come into legislation. This personal explanation illustrates firsthand why we endorse Bill C-69. I give you permission to use this email as a submission, and additionally share our concerns with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the committee, for their consideration to support the passing of Bill C-69.

Introducing myself, I am 66 years old, a lifelong Kootenay B.C. resident, who after traveling, decided that that I wanted to continue to live in the Kootenay region. The reason being the abundance of clean pure water, arable land within gorgeous mountains, and a great community of feisty residents. Along with my husband (70), a locally raised Columbia Basin archeologist and paleoecologist, we have have been witness in our lifetimes to dramatic pattern changes in the weather/climate, the loss of water quality and quantity, the great decline in biodiversity and the dramatic altering of the physical landscape. Our conclusion is that we are living in the overwhelming age of consequences of human interaction on the planet Earth.

Both sets of our parents worked in industrial backgrounds, Teck mining and the oil-patch, and of course we have prospered personally as well. Saying that, through our local experiences of witnessing the near-extinction of the native Kokanee and Ling cod fish, and the caribou once abundant within our lifetime, the numerous impoundments of the Kootenay and the Columbia rivers, the entire removal of mountains, while highly valued for their smelting coal, unfortunately leach selenium causing an international environmental uproar, and the dramatic loss of snow fall accumulation, destructive micro-burst winds, supersaturation rain events causing deadly slides, and the highly vacillating weather events that cause extreme anxiety for gardeners anxious for successful ripening crops, that we had better speak up for more industrially-responsible management of Canadas habitat. We approach this conversation with a science-based perspective.

Historically industry has extracted Canadas' resources with the glee of a undisciplined teenager. The goodies are extracted, the profits made, leaving behind the wreckage of polluted water systems, leaching tailing ponds, frighteningly fragile storage pond containment, poorly managed fire-susceptible forests, disturbed hydrology patterns prone to landslides and tremendously damaged aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, as well as human habitat. Even though wise extractions methods are known, and recommended, there has been little legal enforcement or financial consequence of failing to follow the proper procedures. The loss of the natural habitats, by one resource extraction, often result in the ruination of other economies based on the ecosystems remaining intact, eg fisheries. The Canadian taxpayer pays the bills for irresponsible industrial extraction reparation, often ineffective, when instead the tax-dollars should be spent on increasing the wealth and stability of Canada. Why are the industries not held to high standards, monitored and held financially accountable and responsible for cleanup, restoration and protection of the habitat so that other economies and the wildlife habitats can continue to flourish?

Bill C-69 is a good step in enforcing that the industrial teenager, matures into a respectful industrial adult; respectfully consults, shares, cleans up, apologizes and is financially responsible for its actions until the action is complete.
Many of Canada's resources are non-renewable, irreplaceable, and there are many people and wild-life dependent on the respectful behavior.

The future industrialization of Canada could involve the re-direction of rivers and the export of bulk water, the damming of many rivers located on top of the permafrost layer - releasing vast amounts of methyl-mercury that will destroy and poison the health integrity of any creature who eats that fish or mammal, the mercury toxicity will persist, wet or airborne, toxifying the entire Arctic Ocean and beyond. Additionally we Canadians must cope with the unpredictable effects of climate-change, loss of glacial water sources, drought, and severe weather episodes that destabilize our economies, landscapes, and homes.

Canadian citizens and scientists need a common accessible forum, and time enough, to be able to publicly present, consider and discuss the long-term consequences of the many different solutions for our challenging problems of resource extraction, energy production, water distribution and population employment. Industry must be held accountable to credible scientific assessments and cautions.

Bill C-69 will facilitate security for our water-ways, our drinking water qualities and quantities, soil fertility and land stability, and continuance of aquatic, land mammal, and bird wildlife, as they constitute our country's life-support systems. Canadians need a firm legal foundation to rely on, as we are now forced to adapt to the consequences of the damage that has already been done.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Eyre and Wayne Choquette

Box 25,

Yahk, B.C.

V0B 2P0