

October 7, 2026

Hon. Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Andrew Scheer, P.C., M.P.
House Leader of the Official Opposition
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Mme Christine Normandin, M.P.
House Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Christine.Normandin@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacKinnon, Mr. Scheer and Madame Normandin:

Re: Committee consideration of Bill C-39, the Building Canada Strong Act.

Following media reports that the government is proposing to refer Bill C-39 to a yet-to-be-established special legislative committee, **we are writing to request that relevant sections of the bill be jointly referred to the House of Commons Standing Committees with a mandate for the statutes that Bill C-39 proposes to amend.**

Bill C-39 is 232 pages long and amends 18 statutes and four regulations, enacts a new law and repeals a law. It is complex and will have far-reaching implications related to the environment, public health and safety, workers rights and trade and transportation. Its many provisions require careful, expert scrutiny that cannot be adequately addressed through a single, newly formed committee alone. **It is essential that there be a robust committee stage review involving independent expert witnesses, including from environmental, Indigenous, trade and legal organizations.**

As organizations concerned with environmental protection and the health and wellbeing of people in Canada, we recommend that the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) study Part 1, Divisions 1–6 of the bill, as each of those Divisions is primarily related to that committee's mandate.

We also recommend that the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) study Division 7, amending the Fisheries Act.

The prime minister has characterized Bill C-39 as some of the most consequential legislation in decades. Such consequential measures demand meaningful parliamentary review.

This can only be accomplished by jointly referring the bill after second reading to the committees that the House of Commons has established to study and review the laws that Bill C-39 would amend, and by considering the analysis and advice of witnesses from Indigenous, environmental and labour groups.

Sincerely,

Maggy Burns
Executive Director
Ecology Action Centre

Megan Leslie
President & CEO
WWF-Canada

Caroline Brouillette
Executive Director
Climate Action Network – Réseau action
climat Canada

Akaash Maharaj
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Jessica Clogg
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Chris Genovali
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Lisa Mitchell
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Shanaaz Gokool
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Sandra Schwartz
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Canadian Parks and Wilderness
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Pierre Iachetti
Executive Director
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Marc-André Viau
Directeur des relations gouvernementales
Équiterre

Julia Levin
Associate Director, National Climate
Environmental Defence Canada

cc. *Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development*
Chair, Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Chair, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans