Politicians Name
Politicians Position
Address

Dear (Politicians Name),

I am gravely concerned about the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, which would transport crude bitumen from the tar sands in northern Alberta to Kitimat, British Columbia; the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. If the pipeline is constructed, an estimated 225 oil tankers at least as big as the Exxon Valdez would navigate the Great Bear's rocky northern coastline annually. Twice a week, over 500,000 barrels of tar sands crude would be shipped out and condensate shipped in. The drastic increase in tanker traffic will have impacts beyond Canadian shores. Supertankers will travel south along the US coast carrying the world's dirtiest oil to refineries in California. A spill in BC's northern coast would impact the hundreds of species of birds, fish and marine mammals which make annual migrations throughout the entire North American coastline. Quite simply, no amount of benefit can offset the risk our coast would accept.

This incredible coastline borders the last intact temperate rainforest in the world, and is as close to pristine as anywhere left on earth. Marine life abounds in this hotspot for whales, seabirds, and commercial seafood. Adjacent forests are the last remaining refuge for great predators like grizzly bears and wolves, which have been lost elsewhere. Like other species in these forests, they too depend on healthy marine ecosystems and their resources for their livelihood.

Oil spills in this environment would not only threaten these natural assets but also economic opportunities. This includes a burgeoning eco- tourism industrial as well as aboriginal, commercial and recreational fishing industries and aquaculture.

I urge you to stand with a clear majority of British Columbians, coastal First Nations communities and the growing numbers of Canadians and citizens around the world who want to keep oil tankers out of the waters of the Great Bear Rainforest and who want to keep BC's north coast oil-free.

Sincerely,
(your name)