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André Byham

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August 28, 2014

Re: Martel Forest – Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – Proposed Candidate Protected Areas Review

Dear Sarah and Don,

I wanted to thank-you both for taking the time to review the Martel Forest Candidate Protected Areas strategy at our meeting on August 19, 2014. The meeting was very informative and we appreciate Tembec keeping the Township apprised of any initiatives affecting your forestry or sawmill operations.

As I understand it, Tembec is required to identify candidate protected areas as part of their commitment to their FSC certification on the Martel Forest. The methodology you described to select these proposed areas seems very comprehensive as it considers a broad range of conservation values including sites that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) would also consider as part of a parks planning process. I was also encouraged to hear that Tembec has held similar sessions and sought the input of some of the local Aboriginal communities. During our meeting you indicated that these candidate protected areas are expected to have minimal impact on the wood supply available to Tembec's local sawmill. This is extremely important to the Township of Chapleau as Tembec's operations remain a significant contributor to the local economy.

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“Ville la plus accueillante du nord”

Based on the information presented at the meeting, the Township of Chapleau supports the process used and sites selected as proposed candidate protected areas by Tembec. We also support Tembec continued commitment to FSC certification recognizing that it is FSC's goal to achieve an appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic values.

Similar to the comments made by the local MNRF staff, I would also encourage Tembec to seek the input of the Ontario Prospectors Association to avoid any potential conflicts with mining. Thanks again for the meeting and sharing of information. I will advise you if I receive any additional questions or comments from members of council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andre Byham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andre Byham
Mayor, Township of Chapleau