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April 22, 2015

Mr. David Coon, MLA
Leader of the Third Party
3rd Floor, West Block, Departmental Building
Legislative Assembly Complex
96 St. John Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Coon:

Enclosed is a copy of the response to your Petition 59 tabled in the Legislature on April 8, 2014.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald J. Forestell', written over a horizontal line.

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

DJF/ard

Enclosure

c. Léopold Mallet
Nick Ouellette
Merredith Brewer



**RESPONSE TO PETITION #59
RE: FORESTRY PLAN – Cutting Regulations
TABLED BY DAVID COON
APRIL 8, 2015**

I would like to thank Fredericton South MLA David Coon, for providing our department with Petition #59 regarding the forestry plan announced by the previous government in March 2014, with particular emphasis to rules pertaining to clear cuts, buffers, etc.

As you may be aware our government is currently reviewing all aspects of the crown forestry plan that was announced by the previous government. This includes identifying any measure that may reduce possible risk to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems.

As we are reviewing the strategy, the Department is looking into what measures may be able to improve the conservation aspects of the plan.

In the case of watercourses and buffers, which are specifically mentioned in your petition, the requirements now in place on Crown land meet and most often exceed those for forestry operations on private lands under New Brunswick's *Clean Water Act*.

DNR foresters and technicians will continue to work with the forest industry to identify and implement best practices for forestry. Every year, practices on Crown lands will be judged against internationally recognized standards in sustainable forest management by independent, 3rd party auditors. The full judgement of those auditors will be available to the public via the web, as it always has been.

Thank you for taking the time to send me this petition. The forestry sector is of crucial importance to our province and government will continue working towards a proper balance between economic benefits from the forest while being mindful of the forests ecological importance as well.

Sincerely,


Denis Landry
Minister

**FILED /
DÉPOSÉ
APR 22 2015**

**OFFICE /
LE GREFFIER**

Minister/Ministre

Natural Resources/Ressources naturelles

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