



Reference: 196717

**JUL 08 2013**

Captain Gordon Houston  
Chair, Tanker Safety Expert Panel  
Tanker Safety Panel Secretariat  
330 Sparks Street, Place de Ville Tower C (AAM)  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Dear Captain Houston:

Please accept the following as supplementary content to the Government of British Columbia's June 27, 2013 letter to your Tanker Safety Expert Panel. I would like to provide some additional comments to the Panel regarding our close working relationship with neighbouring coastal jurisdictions in the United States.

The Province of British Columbia has a long standing relationship with its coastal neighbours regarding spill risks from vessel traffic and the need for cooperation across shared borders. British Columbia has joined with Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii to work together under the Pacific States – British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. Our Task Force looks for opportunities to protect North America's Pacific waters from spills.

As we strengthen Canada's west coast marine oil spill preparedness and response regime it is important that we not only look to our neighbours for examples of world class practices, but also ensure that what we do aligns wherever possible. There may be opportunities to go further in the sharing of resources, coordination of planning and response activities, enshrining joint goals and objectives for the spill regime, and even the alignment of regulatory requirements.

Working closely with our neighbours presents an opportunity to save costs across jurisdictions, ensure the highest level of environmental protection and avoid regulatory confusion for those commercial interests that rely on consistent access to our Pacific ports. The Government of British Columbia felt that this point was important enough to share to warrant this second letter. I hope you find it useful in making your recommendations to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

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For more information about the Pacific States – British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, please visit <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/>. Its April 2011 *Stakeholder Workgroup Review of Planning and Response Capabilities for a Marine Oil Spill on the US/Canadian Transboundary Areas of the Pacific Coast Project Report* may be of particular interest to the panel. This report can be found at [http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/notes\\_reports/Final US Canada Transboundary Project Report.pdf](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/notes_reports/Final_US_Canada_Transboundary_Project_Report.pdf).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Shoemaker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W.H. (Wes) SHOEMAKER  
Deputy Minister

cc: Grant Main, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure