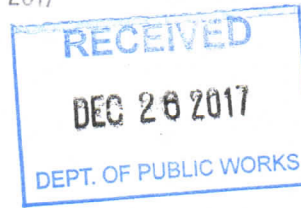




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 1 2017



Office of
International and
Tribal Affairs

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair
U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee
VT Department of Environment Conservation
103 South Main St, Building 1 South
Waterbury, VT 05641-0401

Dear Mr. Wennberg:

On behalf of Administrator Pruitt, U.S. Council Member for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), I thank you for the Governmental Advisory Committee's (GAC) letter of advice of October 23, 2017. Our discussion at the September 14-15, 2017 meeting on how the Council could highlight North American state, tribal nations and private sector exemplary activities and experiences advancing green growth, North American trade and environmental protection was valuable and instructive.

We appreciate the potential confusion on the charge. As you hoped, while the advice provided by the GAC and NAC focused on slightly different aspects of the charge--identifying exemplary practices vs. engaging stakeholders who are implementing exemplary practices—the sum of the advice is extremely valuable for our planning of the Council Session.

GAC's comprehensive advice on national associations of public, private and nonprofit organizations that have sought, evaluated and published exemplary examples of green growth and sustainability programs; national and international non-governmental organizations that have also identified local affiliates, communities and private companies; and associations of corporate sustainability officers that have developed programs to promote green growth and sustainable business practices among their members, is a rich and valuable resource. The suggestion to use social media to reach out to these organizations is also a good way to highlight and share information and expertise as we develop the Council Session and other programs.

We also value the recommendation to consider the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Arizona State University as a resource for learning about efforts of Tribal Nations to promote green economic development. Involving and learning from tribal nations is an important component of the CEC.

We appreciate the thorough analysis and list of exemplary initiatives considered and provided by the GAC and the timely recommendations for our Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC). We have adopted GAC's recommendation to engage outside stakeholders in the YIC as panelists and mentors and are in the process of identifying diverse candidates from Canada, Mexico and the United States who bring experience in sustainability, entrepreneurship and mentorship.

Thank you for all your time and efforts in providing this valuable advice and insight into our Council Session Preparations and Youth Innovation Challenge. We look forward to continue to working with you as we advance environmental cooperation in North America.

Sincerely,



Jane Nishida
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of International & Tribal Affairs

