



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 01 2019

Teresa A. Pardo, PhD., Chair
National Advisory Committee
University at Albany, State University of New York
187 Wolf Road, Suite 301
Albany, NY 12205

Office of
International and
Tribal Affairs

Dear Dr. Pardo:

Thank you for the National Advisory Committee's (NAC) letter of advice of July 9, 2019, reporting on our fifty-second meeting held in Washington, D.C. on May 15-16, 2019. We appreciate the NAC's broad discussion on potential directions in the areas of building disaster resilient communities, marine litter and food waste, circular economy, interconnectedness amongst the sectors to become more resource efficient, extreme events and disaster risk resilience. We also appreciate the NAC members' local and regional vignettes on disaster risk resilience events and capabilities.

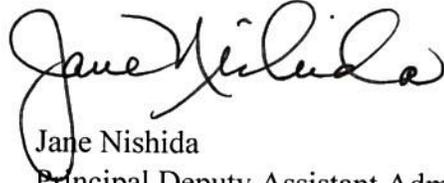
This was a meeting to bring together the newly appointed members and share updates on the history and current activities of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC). It was also an opportunity to share information on trade and environmental issues in North America with key stakeholders representing the business, NGO and academic communities in the United States. I regret that due to last minute scheduling conflicts, I was not able to attend this meeting.

Your letter raises many issues and observations that can help inform our future discussions with Canada and Mexico. For example, we agree with your assessment related to the critical transition from extreme event response to extreme event recovery, and one that can potentially be addressed in the future. Consultations on this issue have already started through trilateral Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), and we expect that it will be thoroughly vetted for the next Operational Plan. We also agree with your assessment that future investment of resources should consider the dissemination, uptake and use of expert analysis, action reports, and other tools.

Some of the issues that your letter raises, like expanding the definition of local in border regions, do not fall within the scope of CEC. As mentioned in our December 10, 2018 response to your October 2018 advice letter, our focus is on local needs and expertise related to preparedness and response to extreme events. Other issues related to the review of industry regulation on disaster risk resilience also do not fall within the scope of the CEC since it is not a regulatory body.

Thank you again for the thoughtful and comprehensive advice letter. We appreciate your insights and expertise as we work with Canada and Mexico to strengthen cooperation on trade and environment matters in North America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Nishida". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jane" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nishida".

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