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ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

December 4, 2023

Reeve Bart Guyon
Brazeau County
7401, Township Road 494
PO Box 77
Drayton Valley AB T7A 1R1
bguyon@brazeau.ab.ca

Dear Reeve Guyon:

Thank you for your letter about the North Saskatchewan River's proposed Canadian Heritage River designation.

I understand you discussed this matter with Mr. John Tchir, Director of Air and Watershed Stewardship, on August 23, 2023, including Brazeau County's concerns about government overreach in the sectors of forestry, mining, and oil and gas. I assure you the Canadian Heritage River designation will not interfere with Brazeau County's local decision-making authority related to these sectors.

The Government of Alberta had similar concerns, and determined the designation will not permit federal jurisdiction over these sectors. Ultimately, the designation is based on the cultural and recreational values of the North Saskatchewan River, and not on the natural value. In addition, if Alberta wants to end its participation in the Canadian Heritage River System, we have the authority to remove ourselves from the program at any time. I can also confirm my department has received correspondence from the sixteen other municipalities directly involved in this designation, confirming widespread support for the designation and agreement it will be beneficial for tourism and economic collaboration opportunities.

The Alberta government has taken steps to prevent the federal government from interfering with provincial jurisdiction by enacting the *Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act* (available at open.alberta.ca/publications). More information on what this act entails is available at alberta.ca by searching for "Alberta Sovereignty within a United Canada Act."

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr. Tchir in Rocky Mountain House at 403-846-6696, or at john.tchir@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schulz
Minister

cc: John Tchir, Environment and Protected Areas