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## **NWT Residents petition Parliament for halt to changes to law protecting Canada's rivers and lakes**

**OTTAWA** – A petition from Northerners calling for a halt to changes to the law protecting Canada's rivers and lakes has been tabled in the House of Commons by the MP from the Northwest Territories.

New Democrat MP Dennis Bevington tabled the petition which calls the Harper government's actions to eliminate environmental protections contained in the Navigable Waters Protection Act a breach of trust.

Stephen Harper's Conservatives have included changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act in Bill C-10 the Budget Implementation Act. Harper's Conservatives have taken this action even though the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities said in a report issued last year that there should be increased consultations particularly with recreational users before the changes are made.

“Instead the Harper Conservatives have chosen to jam these changes through Parliament by including it in the budget bill,” said Bevington. “The actions of this government on these changes really shows their lack of respect for Canadians. I think this bill should have come before Parliament by itself rather than tying it to the economic stimulus package.”

The petition calls on Parliament to, “....act now to protect our rivers and the rich heritage of navigation rights in Canada.”

Bevington anticipates getting more petitions of this nature from Northerners.

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