



CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

November 18, 2014

Diane Austin, Ph.D.  
Good Neighbor Environmental Board c/o EPA  
EPA East Building, Room 1102  
Mail Code 1601 M  
1202 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Austin:

I am writing in response to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board's letter of September 8, 2014, regarding the proposed merger of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and North American Development Bank (NADB). The White House Council on Environmental Quality thanks you for your comments, which have been shared with the State Department, Treasury Department, and Environmental Protection Agency – the three U.S. government agencies that serve on the joint board of directors for the BECC and NADB. The Administration has not yet taken a final position on the proposed merger of the two institutions, and we will take into account the views and comments of stakeholders like the GNEB.

The President and his Administration remain committed to the current mandate of the institutions, namely, to preserve, protect, and enhance the environment of the border region in order to advance the well-being of the people of the United States and Mexico. U.S. agencies on the board have been engaging closely with BECC and NADB management on the proposed merger for several months, and have reinforced their support for the current mandate, regardless of any changes that we may consider to the structure of the institutions.

Thank you for your continued advice and support for environmental protection along the U.S. – Mexico border. The President appreciates your service and will take your remarks under consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Boots". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Boots

White House Council on Environmental Quality