

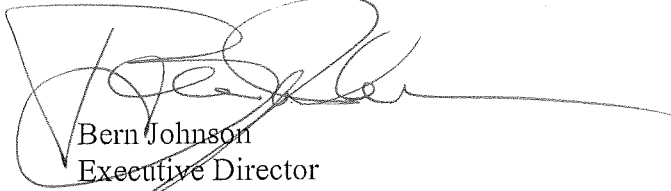
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December 16, 2012

Gustavo Alanis Ortega  
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Gustavo:

The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, (ELAW) works with lawyers around the world who are helping citizens participate in decisions about their communities to defend the environment and human rights. We are proud to have collaborated with the lawyers at CEMDA for many years as they have worked to protect human rights and advance environmental laws. Attorneys and their clients need to be able to participate in debates about proposed developments without fear of threats or lawsuits aimed at stifling public participation. Lawsuits aimed at silencing public participation are known as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) and many courts have rejected such efforts. We stand with CEMDA in defense of informed, lawful public participation.



Bern Johnson  
Executive Director



Environmental  
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