



## The International Society of Limnology

3 March 2019


Mr Kobytkin Dmitry Nikolaevich, Minister  
Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology


Minister Nikolaevich,


This letter expresses our deepest concern that recent proposals will weaken regulations on pollutant loads into Lake Baikal. We have been informed that these proposals will permit increased inputs of sulphates, chlorides, and detergents, as well as nitrates and phosphates. We, the Executive Board of the International Society of Limnology (SIL), form a widely international group of researchers experienced in the research and management of lakes and rivers. In particular, we are acutely aware of the consequences of phosphate and nitrate loads and other pollutants to lake ecosystems.

Lake Baikal is an iconic ecosystem of global importance, as recognized by its UNESCO World Heritage status. It is well known for its endemic flora and fauna, as well as its outstanding water quality. We fear that the recent proposals will contribute to an irreversible loss of the natural quality and health of this huge freshwater resource. We strongly urge the authorities and all those connected to the management and protection of Lake Baikal, to do their utmost to prevent these measures from being implemented.

Most sincerely,

Prof. Yves Prairie, Canada, SIL President 

Dr. Thomas Mehner, Germany, SIL President Elect 

Dr. Tamar Zohary, Israel, SIL General Secretary-Treasurer 

On behalf of the rest of the SIL Executive Board members and other officers:

Prof. Ines O'Farrel, Argentina, SIL Vice President for Developing Countries

Dr Jeremey Piggot, Ireland, Vice President

Dr Martin Kainz, Austria, Vice President

Dr Marieke Frassl, Australia, Student/Early Career representative

Dr Iestyn Woolway, UK, Student/Early Career representative

Prof. David Hamilton, Australia, Society journal editor (Inland Waters)

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cc: Ms. Mechtild Rossler, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Center (M.Rossler@unesco.org)

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