



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

School of Environment  
and Sustainability

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April 6, 2017

His Excellency, Dr. Janos Ader, President of the Republic of Hungary  
Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary  
1536 Budapest, Pf. 227  
Hungary  
Email: [Haszonicsne.Maria@keh.hu](mailto:Haszonicsne.Maria@keh.hu), [Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu](mailto:Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu)

Dear HE President Ader,

I, and many of my colleagues, were disturbed to learn about Bill T/14686 amending Act CCIV of 2011 which would threaten Central European University's continued operation. The faculty, students and staff at the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, respectfully urge you not to sign this proposed legislation and instead enter into consultation with CEU.

The School of Environment and Sustainability is a partner institution with close ties to CEU's Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy. As Executive Director of the School, I want to express solidarity with our colleagues at CEU and express my grave concerns about how these changes endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest. These actions set a dangerous precedent for academics and academic institutions in other countries—places where academic freedom is highly valued.

CEU has established an extraordinary reputation in the short twenty-five years it has been existence. The Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy at CEU is a center of excellence for environment-related scholarship and teaching in Europe. We consider it a sister school to us and have an exchange program that allows their MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (MESPOM) students to come to the School of Environment and Sustainability here at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

As I understand it, the masters and doctoral programs at CEU are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws. The legislation threatens the

accreditation CEU receives through the United States. This change would irreparably harm not only Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, but its relationships with its European partners, with the United States and with Canada.

I urge you to act on your Presidential prerogative and not sign this bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Steelman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Toddi Steelman, PhD  
Executive Director and Professor  
School of Environment and Sustainability

TS:jlmm

CC: [Support for CEU@ceu.edu](mailto:Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu)