

But if the issue were not contentious, it would have been resolved long ago. But clearly it has not been, and it must be addressed.

This is not a question of blame or guilt. We are both polluters and both to blame for the damage our economic goals have inflicted on our environment.

The real question is what are we going to do about it? How are we going to face up to this aerial assault which causes such real and evident damage?

Somewhere around 50 per cent of the acid rain which falls within the confines of Canada's borders comes from your country. The remainder is our own.

In Canada, both the provincial and federal governments are acting to dramatically lower our acid-rain emissions by the year 1994. This will not only benefit Canada, it will also aid in reducing the emissions generated in Canada which are affecting the states of New England.

But what about the other half of our problem, the half that Canada cannot deal with ourselves? The answer, in our view, is the establishment in this country, the United States, of targeted mandated reductions of emissions which cause acid rain.

This is not now a question of evidence or research. The facts are known: scientific studies in Canada, your own country and many Western European countries all constitute an inescapable testimonial to both the causes and effects of acid rain.

The consequences of not acting, for you and for us, would be tragic.

The damage already inflicted on our habitat has been enormous: 14,000 Canadian lakes are dead, and another 150,000 are being acidified while an equal number are vulnerable.

Salmon-bearing rivers in Nova Scotia and maple trees in Quebec are damaged beyond repair or in jeopardy and more than 80 per cent of the best agricultural land in Eastern Canada is receiving unacceptably high levels of acid rain.

In the United States the effects of acid rain are particularly evident in New England, which suffers from one of the highest levels of acidic deposition in all of North America.

A study released earlier this week by the State of New York indicates that 26 per cent of Adirondack lakes are considered dangerously acidic and that 25 per cent of the Adirondack lakes had no fish in them.