



May 26, 2017

Name
Title
Address

Re: Request for meeting to discuss the recommendations of the CEAA Expert Panel and finding a practical way forward on federal environmental assessment processes

Dear (name):

In the last federal election, Canadians elected a government committed to a balanced approach to protecting the environment while growing the economy. Since the election, this balance has been reflected in the approval of pipeline projects in western Canada, and through the flexibility afforded to provinces and territories in the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

We trust you will work to ensure this balanced approach in the future as it supports the sustainable development of Canada's natural resources, which are linked to our economic prosperity. Furthermore, it also enables protection of the natural environment and the achievement of international climate change commitments.

However, the undersigned representatives of Canada's key economic, natural resources, and energy sectors, are concerned about the fundamental overhaul of the environmental assessment system that has been proposed by the Expert Panel.

While we share the government's view that more could be done to enhance public trust and confidence in the environmental assessment processes, we do not believe a fundamental redesign is warranted.

The Report of Expert Panel to Review Federal Environmental Assessment Processes

We share the goal of a rigorous, yet timely and efficient, federal environmental assessment regime that has public confidence, includes and supports meaningful consultation with Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders, and facilitates sustainable development. Done well, it will also ensure resources get to market, while maintaining the country's competitiveness and its ability to attract investment. This in turn will generate revenues for government, create well-paying jobs for middle class Canadians, and opportunities for remote, northern and Indigenous communities.

The Expert Panel's Report, *Building Common Ground: A New Vision for Impact Assessment in Canada*, is well-intentioned, attempts to reflect the input received by the Panel, and contains some helpful recommendations for improving the federal assessment process. Unfortunately, however, the model it proposes is unrealistic and impractical.

Economy-Wide Concerns

We believe the proposed approach, if implemented, would create uncertainty and delays for project proponents, materially deteriorating Canada's investment climate. It would not result in a robust and timely federal assessment process, and would not meet the objective of "bringing resources to market."

As the government weighs options for legislative amendments to CEAA 2012, decision-makers should carefully consider the damaging consequences the Expert Panel's recommendations could create for the national economy and key wealth-creating sectors.

We look forward to discussing with you in greater detail, our concerns about the potential impacts of a proposed approach that would move Canada away from a process that can achieve both environmental protection and economic growth.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable John Manley, P.C., O.C.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Business Council of Canada

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President & Chief Executive
Officer
The Canadian Chamber of
Commerce

Michael Atkinson
President
Canadian Construction
Association

The Honourable Sergio Marchi
President & CEO
Canadian Electricity
Association

Chris Bloomer,
President & CEO
Canadian Energy Pipeline
Association

Jacob Irving
President
Canadian Hydropower
Association

John Barrett
President & Chief Executive
Officer
Canadian Nuclear Association

Pierre Gratton
President & Chief Executive
Officer
Mining Association of Canada

Michael Bourque
President & Chief Executive Officer
Railway Association of Canada