

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 Albert Street
Suite 420
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Sierra Club Canada believes the letter distributed to Chamber members concerning Bill C-311 is misleading and should be withdrawn immediately. The letter suggests developing the fossil fuel industry is the best way to fight climate change. This is nonsense. Burning fossil fuels is the cause of climate change. The more we develop and export fossil fuels, the worse the situation becomes.

I am surprised the Canadian Chamber of Commerce does not welcome real action on reducing emissions. There are tremendous opportunities for Canadian business in every community of this country that are being missed because we don't have scientific emission reduction targets.

Further, Bill C-311 requires targets to be set, but does not proscribe how those targets will be met. There is no basis to assume there will necessarily be a negative economic impact in reaching them. The economic implications can only be determined based on an analysis of an overall plan.

Why does the Canadian Chamber of Commerce reject scientific targets? On what other basis should targets be set? Canada has taken a political approach to climate change for twenty years. The result has been a continuous rise in emissions. In all other environmental issues, the government has maintained that it acts based on science. In fact, all environmental improvements from the elimination of raw sewage to CFCs have been based on science. Today, the science is telling us to make significant and rapid emissions reductions or face a potential climate catastrophe.

Sierra Club Canada believes working with business, industry, government and the public is necessary if we are to preserve our planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bennett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Bennett
Executive Director
Sierra Club Canada
Cell: 613-291-6888



July 14, 2010

Mr. John Bennett
Executive Director
Sierra Club Canada
412-1 Nicholas St.
Ottawa ON
K1N 7B7

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank you for your letter of July 5, 2010 to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce regarding our position on Bill C-311, The Climate Change Accountability Act.

We are disappointed that the Sierra Club would misrepresent our position on this Bill, indicating that we believe "developing the fossil fuel industry is the best way to fight climate change" and that the "Canadian Chamber of Commerce does not welcome real action on reducing emissions". This is not true. Since 2005, the Canadian Chamber has called for a sustainable energy strategy for Canada that will respect the environment, provide secure and affordable energy and support the standard of living of Canadian families. This includes meeting our energy demand through the sustainable development of all energy sources, including non-fossil renewable energy and fuels. If you would like to read our discussion paper in this regard, released last October, it is available here:

<http://www.chamber.ca/index.php/en/policy-and-advocacy/C214/>

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has long supported actions to reduce the growth in Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. Continued uncertainty regarding future climate change policy brings significant environmental and economic risks for business. It is important that the federal and provincial governments act decisively and in a coordinated manner to produce a Canadian solution that addresses these concerns. In particular, the government must continue to work on the development of a Canada-wide carbon pricing system as well as focusing on targeted actions where there are opportunities to achieve significant emission reductions. Our formal position on climate change, approved by our membership at our 2009 Annual General Meeting, can be found here:

http://www.chamber.ca/images/uploads/Resolutions/2009/E-Climate_Change.pdf

In order to properly and responsibly address this global issue, it is also important that Canada move forward in cooperation with our major trading partners, and in particular, the United States. The Canadian government has set a medium-term reduction target of 17 per cent below 2005 emission levels by 2020 – the same goal as the United States. Setting targets that are unachievable and out of line with our

420 - 360, rue Albert St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7X7

613.238.4000
613.238.7643

www.chamber.ca
info@chamber.ca

trading partners would endanger Canadian jobs and prosperity and would likely result in jobs being transferred abroad, with serious effects on our economy while having no net benefit for the environment.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce will continue to welcome partnerships with any interested stakeholders to help to develop the path forward on climate change. An important part of this path forward will be the development of a national strategy for energy production and use.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Campbell
Director, Energy and Environment Policy