

January 23, 2009

The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C., M.P.  
President of the Treasury Board  
140 O'Connor Street  
Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0R5

Dear Minister:

In October 2008, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce held its 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Québec City. One of the highlights of Canadian Chamber's AGM is the Policy Session. It is during the Policy Session that resolutions submitted by local chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across the country are debated and voted on by accredited delegates. Once approved, these resolutions become policy of the Canadian Chamber for three years. This year, delegates issued a clear national policy mandate that we will pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

Our renewed national policy mandate includes an issue that falls within your portfolio. We would like to discuss this with you directly in the near future.

**Definition of the Precautionary Principle:** The federal government has long supported the "Rio" definition of the precautionary principle, which reads: "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." This is the definition that should be used in all legislation, regulations and treaties rather than alternative definitions that have been used in some instances (such as the Marine Conservation Areas Act).

The full text of this resolution is attached and I hope that we will have an opportunity to discuss these with you in the near future. We will contact your office shortly to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Perrin Beatty  
President and CEO

Attachments