

November 13, 2009

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Dear Minister:

In October, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 80th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Victoria. One of the highlights of 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 the policy position of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for three years. This year, our delegates issued a clear and decisive national policy mandate that we intend to pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

Beyond those issues we have already brought to your attention, our renewed national policy mandate includes a number of additional issues that fall within your portfolio.

Boosting the Economy by Supporting the Real Estate Development Industry

The real estate industry is negatively impacted by unnecessary overlap and duplication among the environmental assessments process of the various levels of government. We recommend that the federal government work with the provinces and territories to harmonize their environmental regulations to increase the efficiency and expediency of the approval process.

Climate Change

The federal and provincial governments must act decisively and in a coordinated manner to develop a Canadian approach to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Well-drafted regulations and legislation will spur innovation in new technologies, help to create jobs and increase investment, providing a foundation for the move towards a vibrant low-carbon economy.

An Integrated Approach to the Management of Waste and Recyclables

There is a need for an integrated approach to waste management that considers all sources of waste and which should combine source reduction, re-use, recycling, composting and recovery options, treatment and disposal methods into one overall system. Governments must work together to develop a consistent and equitable integrated approach to the management of wastes.

Reforming the Resource Development Regulatory Regime in the NWT

In support of efforts to reduce interprovincial/territorial trade barriers, we recommend reforming the resource development regulatory regime in the NWT based on the 13 recommendations in the May 2008 report, *Road to Improvement – the Review of the Regulatory Systems Across the North*.

The Unification of the Environmental Assessment Process

Misalignment and lack of unification between federal and provincial/territorial requirements for environmental assessments continues to discourage business development in many areas of the country. It is imperative that all levels of government work together to develop a harmonized environmental review process.

National Marine Conservation Areas

There is a great deal of confusion about the responsibilities of various agencies and their planning processes and regulatory authorities for the marine environment. The federal government needs to put one agency in charge of the stewardship and sustainable management of the marine environment in Canada and that agency should be the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Improving the Regulatory Review Process for the Development of Infrastructure

Canada's infrastructure is an economic enabler for its economy but is in need of major reinvestment. Unfortunately, the regulatory approval process can be lengthy, complicated and involve multiple departments and levels of government. We recommend that all levels of government work together to streamline this process and, in particular, work to remove

redundancies and put in place a single window approach to assessing infrastructure projects.

Should you wish to discuss these issues further, I would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

c.c. Ian Shugart, Deputy Minister, Environment Canada

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

The Honourable L'honorable

Jim Prentice

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

FEB 16 2010

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

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, 2009, highlighting elements of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's revised national policy mandate. The Chamber has been a productive partner in the past on environmental issues and I wish to continue to reinforce this relationship.

With respect to climate change, the impacts are evident in most regions of the world, and we must work together with the international community to secure our climate future. As Canada's Minister of the Environment, I am also aware that Canada's economic prosperity cannot be sustained without a healthy environment, just as environmental progress cannot be achieved without a healthy economy. In this regard, the Government will continue its realistic, responsible approach to addressing the challenge of climate change.

Our government has committed to reducing Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. We will do this through concrete actions to reduce emissions from all sources, including the industrial, thermal electricity, transportation, and commercial and residential building sectors. Our government has set an objective that 90 percent of Canada's electricity needs be provided by non-emitting sources, such as hydro, nuclear, clean coal or wind power, by 2020.

We will also work with the United States to develop a coordinated approach to climate change, that will advance our respective environmental and energy objectives as well as strengthen the North American economy.

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**Canada**

The United States is our single biggest market, our most important trading partner, with our production processes tightly integrated across both the economy and across the border. Our economies are integrated to such an extent that it only makes sense to proceed with harmonizing our climate change approach and aligning a range of principles, policy, regulations and standards.

Canada has already begun to move forward in a number of key areas. In April 2009, we announced new regulations for automotive tailpipe emissions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the automotive sector. In June 2009, we set out guidelines for a carbon offset system that will establish tradable credits in Canada's proposed cap-and-trade system. These actions demonstrate Canada's commitment to action but are designed to ensure continued harmonization with the United States.

Responsibility for managing waste in Canada is shared between the federal and provincial/territorial governments. The federal government's primary role is to regulate the interprovincial and international movement of waste, including hazardous and non-hazardous waste and recycling. The federal government also regulates hazardous wastes produced by certain industries and provides support to the provinces and territories through research and public education efforts. The federal government has a role to play in coordinating various activities related to waste management with other levels of government.

Provincial and territorial governments have primary responsibility for regulating waste diversion and developing related policies. The actual collection of waste materials is generally done by municipal/regional governments who are primarily responsible for collecting and disposing of residential waste.

Cooperation in setting a national definition and standards for hazardous wastes and hazardous recyclable materials as well as promoting a national approach to environmentally sound management in Canada is accomplished through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

I appreciate your taking the time to update me on the policy priorities of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jim Prentice', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.