

November 13, 2009

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Natural Resources  
580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0E4

Dear Minister:

In October, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 80<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **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 Mackenzie Gas Project**

The Mackenzie Gas Project is a critical piece of infrastructure that will support the growing resource development in the North. We recommend that the federal government work to ensure that the development of this project is not disadvantaged compared to other large scale energy projects and that there are sufficient opportunities for First Nations and Inuit to become involved with the project.

**Strategic Investments in NWT Hydro Development**

With the increased development in the North, there is an opportunity to develop strategic hydroelectricity developments in the NWT. We recommend that the federal government invest in these hydro facilities and fund a north-south power grid connection to allow for the exportation to the south of this power.

**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. Cassie Doyle, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada

Minister  
of Natural Resources



Ministre  
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

DEC 21 2009

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

Dear <sup>Perrin</sup> ~~Mr. Beatty~~:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, 2009, regarding the policy resolutions of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's 80th Annual General Meeting.

The Government of Canada is committed to working on a number of energy policy fronts where further progress is needed, including addressing climate change and streamlining the regulatory review process.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) will continue to work with the provinces, territories and other stakeholders to ensure its policies meet the challenges of becoming a clean-energy superpower. NRCan welcomes the efforts of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and others, to stimulate further discussion about energy in Canada.

I look forward to discussing the future of Canada's energy policies with you and your colleagues during the week of January 11, 2010.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.

Perrin -  
very appreciated  
of the work on  
regulatory reform.  
This will be an  
important year.  
LR.