



ALBERTA
ENERGY

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Peace River*

January 24, 2015

AR21058

Mr. Ken Hogg
kshogg@shaw.ca

Dear Mr. Hogg,

Thank you for copying me on your December 19, 2014 email to Honourable Jim Prentice, Premier of Alberta, regarding Alberta's leadership for a sustainable energy future. Premier Prentice has reviewed your comments and asked me to respond on his behalf.

We know Albertans want the cleanest air possible today, and for future generations, and so does this government. Premier Prentice has asked Steve MacDonald, Chief Advisor to the Premier on Energy and Climate Change, to lead a review of Alberta's Climate Change Strategy. There will be a focus on reducing carbon dioxide emissions across all economic sectors through advances in technology and innovation, energy efficiency, conservation, and alternative and renewable energy.

Alberta is more than just an oil and gas province – it's an energy province, and the transition of Alberta's electricity system to alternative fuel sources is already well underway. More than 45 per cent of Alberta's electricity generating capacity comes from alternative and renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydroelectricity, and gas co-generation. Private investments in electricity generation have grown to \$15 billion with half going to alternative and renewables, including wind and solar projects. This has all happened without expensive taxpayer subsidies. It is proof that our system is working in Alberta.

While I appreciate your proposal and request for support to further solar energy initiatives in the province, the drop in oil prices globally has had a significant effect on Alberta and the Government of Alberta's revenues. As such, the government is currently not in a position to consider contributing funds to the proposal you have presented. Going forward we would also need to consider whether or not funding such a proposal would have a corresponding impact on the overall installation of residential solar power generation and growth of a broader solar industry.

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Mr. Ken Hogg

- 2 -

I would encourage you, however, to contact Christine Lazaruk, Director of Strategy and Integration with the Electricity and Sustainable Energy Division at 780-422-2744 or christine.lazaruk@gov.ab.ca to identify opportunities to be involved in the development of a longer term electricity strategy for the province. Under this electricity strategy, Alberta Energy will be engaging stakeholders and working to identify policy barriers to the efficient market-based development of renewable generation technologies.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact the Government of Alberta. I appreciate the hard work that the Alberta Renewable Energy Alliance is undertaking, and your enthusiasm for helping Alberta advance as one of the leaders in renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'O' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Oberle
Minister

cc: Honourable Jim Prentice
Premier of Alberta