

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault P.C., M.P.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

On MARCH 27, 2024 letter, Deborah Yedlin, CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, and a cohort of oil and gas executives asked the federal government to scrap the carbon emissions cap and any regulations on emissions for the oil and gas industry. We agree that prosperity matters, but so does a livable planet for our kids. On behalf of Albertans who disagree with Yedlin, we believe we need far stronger and urgent action.

In 2021, the Calgary-based Transition Accelerator report 'Pathways to Net Zero' embraced a transition to net zero:

If Canada's oil and gas sector is to be transformed into something other than a legacy business, which serves a declining customer base and leaves behind massive public liabilities (abandoned wells, tailing ponds and demoralized communities), then industry leaders and governments must set aside their defensive posture toward existing industry practices and begin to reconfigure for a net zero-emission world. This means accelerating measures to drive down existing production emissions (regulations, carbon pricing, abatement investment, etc.), and to explore the development of net-zero energy products and alternative activities.

We all want a prosperous Alberta and Canada for our future selves, our Indigenous allies, and all life we share with the planet. This is not only moral and ethical but sound and wise business practice. We need tougher and enforceable emissions caps. Business as usual won't work. We need financial penalties that restrict excessive corporate profits.

Let's go beyond the cap. We propose:

- **End fossil fuel subsidies, both direct and indirect** and redirect funds to clean energy projects that will more likely get us the whole way to net zero and help those people having to deal with this transition.

- **Halt new oil & gas infrastructure projects** – While new gas infrastructure may be considered a less-dirty source of energy, it ultimately locks us into a dead-end path that leaves us in the same position a decade from now, and at taxpayers' expense.
- **Support a just transition** and free those workers, including Indigenous employees held hostage by the fossil fuel industry from shifting to good jobs that will make this transition real.
- **Encourage investment in long term steps toward net zero, not expensive half measures**, by leveraging Alberta's pioneering spirit and skilled workforce to spark a clean energy revolution and curtailing expensive distractions like carbon capture and storage.
- **Empower consumers** with real choices and a fair and equitable sustainable energy market. Albertans have been captive to a bad set of choices for far too long by shortsighted policies.
- **Increase efficiencies- Reduce demand** for fossil fuels in buildings and homes by updating Alberta's building codes to mandate high performance standards for energy and water use.

These steps must be taken to help lead us all toward a more positive and prosperous future in Alberta and Canada. The world is already racing toward low-carbon technologies, but Canada, and specifically Alberta, risk being the next Kodak.

Subsidies for the old way hold us back. Let's invest in building a better future for everyone. This isn't just about emissions; this is about protecting Albertans from the financial burden of yesterday's technology.

Most importantly though, net-zero emissions are not an option, or a goal, they are a necessity.

Pollution doesn't stop at the border - we all breathe it regardless of how oil & gas accounts for it. We simply cannot let oil and gas companies continue using our oceans and atmosphere as their own private sewer, without paying for the associated pollution.

The scorching fires, devastating floods, and relentless droughts are a brutal wake-up call. Climate change isn't some distant threat; it's here, disrupting our lives and costing us all dearly. Scientists are unanimous: this crisis is real, global, urgent, and caused predominantly by humans burning fossil fuels. We are already seeing environmentally catastrophic tipping points.

We know that a transition MUST START NOW. People have become dependant on fossil fuels. But maximizing short-term profits from their production while minimizing expenditures to curtail their pollution deliberately delays improvement to life on Earth.

The time for delay is over. We need to have a government that empowers consumers and supports a just transition for workers.

We believe that most Albertans, in contrast to Yedlin's letter, have the vision, capability and will to make that new future happen and that delaying the energy transition is not the way to do that. It's time to reclaim our energy legacy. We need leaders who share vision, who will protect our resources and invest in a diversified, sustainable future for generations to come.

This isn't about sacrificing prosperity; it's about creating a future where profit and sustainability go hand-in-hand - that's just good long-term business - An Alberta that leads the charge.

Please help Alberta and all other provinces stay on an authentic trajectory to a net-zero transition by enforcing the real changes that lead us to thriving in a prosperous, clean future that we, and our kids, all deserve.

Sincerely,

From all the Albertans and Canadians who value our kids' futures and the environment and economy they will inherit.

Richard Hall P.Eng. (former Electrical, Computer, and Software Eng)

Ken Hogg M.Eng., P.Eng.

Gordon Petersen TET

Luc Savoie P.Geo.(retired)