



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00562**

BY: **MRS. STUBBS (LAKELAND)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE JIM CARR, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Natural Resources

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Oil and gas exploration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their concerns, and understands the important economic contributions the oil and gas industry has made to the country. Low commodity prices have taken a significant toll on the Canadian economy and, in particular, on the families, communities and companies of Alberta. The government's full support goes to those who have been affected. That is why accessing new markets, where commodities command higher prices, and improving Canada's competitive position are two strategic imperatives for the Government. With Canada's extensive oil and gas reserves, as well as its unparalleled expertise, the country is well-positioned to continue its role as a reliable, secure and responsible supplier of energy to global markets.

The Government of Canada also recognizes that in the 21st century, it is no longer possible to make a choice between what is good for the economy and what is good for the environment. Canadians expect their government to do both. It is a federal responsibility to ensure that Canada's natural resources are developed in a sustainable manner that protects its rich natural environment, respects the rights and treaties of Indigenous peoples, and supports the resilience of natural resources industries.

The Government's decision to permit the proposed Pacific NorthWest LNG Project to proceed reflects these priorities. The Project will create jobs for Canadians – more than 4,500 during peak construction of the project and over 330 direct

and 300 indirect jobs during the facility's operational phase — but it will also be subject to more than 190 legally-binding conditions to protect the environment.

At the same time, the Government realizes that future projects will simply not move forward without renewed public confidence in Canada's regulatory processes. Improved confidence that regulatory decisions are impartial, based in science, and that consultations with stakeholders and Indigenous groups have been fully considered is difficult to achieve if government advocates for a project or industry. On June 20, 2016, the Government of Canada launched a review of environmental and regulatory processes to restore that public trust. The review is focusing on modernizing the National Energy Board, restoring lost protections, and introducing modern safeguards to the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act. Consultation will be at the core of this review, and the Government of Canada invites all petitioners to share their views on these important issues. For additional information about the review and opportunities to provide your input, please visit the following page:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/assessments/environmental-reviews.html>

While this work is underway, the Government has developed an interim strategy for assessing and reviewing projects already in the queue. This strategy is enhancing Canada's engagement of Indigenous peoples, providing opportunities for Canadians to express their views, and ensuring decisions are based on science and facts.

The Government of Canada has also announced a number of measures to support the short- and long term needs of the oil and gas sector and alleviate the negative impacts of its recent downturn on Canadians. Some of these measures are found in Budget 2016, which supports a more resilient sector over the long term and helps Canadian families affected by the recent downturn in the industry. For example, Budget 2016 will maintain tax measures that incentivize investment in new facilities, such as the accelerated capital cost allowance for liquefied natural gas facilities. It will also invest \$62.5 million in infrastructure for alternative transportation fuels, including natural gas, and \$50 million in technologies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector. In the longer term, developing Canadian oil and gas resources in cleaner, more sustainable ways will be critical for the sector to continue contributing to Canadian prosperity.