

Recommended Amendments to Bill C-12, Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act

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Date submitted: May 17, 2021

Introduction

I am a constituent of the Burlington, Ontario riding who is deeply concerned about the climate crisis and the fact that Canada is not on track to meet its Paris Agreement climate targets. While the government's new Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (Bill C-12) is a welcome step in the right direction, it does not go far enough. This is the last decade we have to achieve net-zero emissions before it will be impossible to hold the planetary temperature increase to less than two degrees. This law does not require setting a milestone for 2025; it does not make the 2030 target legally-binding; and it does not include sufficient accountability measures

Recommendations

1. Maximize Ambition! Establish 2025 targets, consistent with best available science and international obligations, ensuring accountability through the next five years.
2. Set a stronger emissions reduction target of at least 50% by 2030, to align with IPCC recommendations.
3. Establish a clear legal duty to achieve set targets that will endure changes of government.
4. Establish rolling 5-yr carbon budgets in line with IPCC science and equity principles.

5. Align the accountability cycle with the Paris Agreement's 5-yr stocktake process and its goal of ratcheting up ambition.
6. Include robust minimum standards for planning and reporting.
7. Create an independent advisory body, with clearly defined and robust roles, that includes climate science experts to help set targets, review, assess, and report on progress, and excludes anyone who has advocated against climate action or spread misinformation.
8. Strengthen the advisory body's role in setting targets.
9. Align the legislation and embed it with the principles of the U.N.D.R.I.P (United Nations Declaration to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).
10. Mandate engagement with the workforce to ensure a just and equitable transition with a "good-jobs" guarantee.
11. Incentivize and facilitate provincial governments to create and implement their own incorporation of the Paris Agreement targets in line with the Federal government's.

Conclusion

We have run out of time to prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis. It is imperative that the Government of Canada amend Bill C-12 to make it stronger if we are to secure a livable future for our children.