

Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
House of Commons Sixth Floor,
131 Queen St. Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

By email: ENVI@parl.gc.ca

May 16, 2021

**A submission to Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable
Development with amendments to Bill C-12**

Dear Committee Members

*In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our
decisions on the next seven generations. —Iroquois maxim*

I am a retired social worker. My wife is a retired teacher. We have three children and five grandchildren and have twin grandchildren on the way. I want a safe sustainable future for them. They deserve a world that is healthy and a government who has made every effort to guide us and align our economy and industries and life style with a healthy and sustainable environment. My father fought in the second world war for this country. My mother was a teacher. My brother a policeman. Ordinary people who have worked hard and shared in the ongoing life of this country. Ordinary Canadians who if communicated to clearly and shown wise leadership will make the necessary changes and sacrifices needed to keep this country safe and healthy. I feel compelled to write to you on behalf of millions of ordinary Canadians and for millions of ordinary Canadians of the future.

You are meeting to explore perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislation since Confederation and we have to get it right. We cannot fall short. The future of our country depends on it.

I am writing to you with a mixture of hope and of dismay. Hope that you as a committee will rise up and face the reality, gravity and imminence of the Climate Crisis facing Canada and the world. I am hopeful because scientists around the world have very clearly outlined the dangers, and what needs to be done to avert global catastrophe. Many also view this as a great opportunity economically and culturally to create a better future for Canada and the world.

You have a Bill in front of you. It is a welcome and important work in progress, but you must see that it falls significantly short of what is needed to truly address the Climate Crisis facing us and our needed emissions reductions. I feel dismay as I read the Bill as it stands with its clear weaknesses and as I listen to fractious debates on it in the House of Commons. Up to now Canada has not lived up to our responsibility to ourselves and to the world in doing our fair share. We could now finally rise up to meet our aspirations and join other countries that have made significant, realistic and enforceable legislation that would truly give us the guidance and discipline to take Canada towards an ecologically sustainable future. You as a committee must look clearly at the reality facing us, and let science be the guide to your deliberations about this Bill and to making

the necessary improvements and amendments needed to create a truly historical commitment to taking us to a new ecologically sane future.

For once it is of paramount importance that all parties transcend political differences and unite around a common effort to face this issue and work together to make this legislation effective. Future Canadians will not care what party was in power at this time or who was in parliament. They will not care what parties jockeyed for short term political positions in the present, but they will care about increasing forest fires, droughts, floods, rising sea waters, melting permafrost giving off mega tons of methane, the melting arctic, rising global temperatures, global conflict and suffering because of climate change. They will care if the world for our grandchildren, after we have gone, becomes a science fiction nightmare. But they could also care deeply and with great gratitude if you do your part now to give future Canadians a country worth living in, and to make Canada a truly responsible and caring global citizen playing its part in facing this epochal threat. Your leadership with this legislations is critical as is your recognition and trust that all Canadians, facing this challenge with courage and ingenuity, can give us great opportunities not only to avert disaster but to reinvent ourselves for a better sustainable future.

Many Canadian organizations and individual Canadians have made important recommendations for improving this Bill with the aim of making it a more realistic and operative tool for the collective efforts that will be needed to meet our emissions reduction targets. There is considerable consensus of the need for the following amendments and I urge you to consider them and recommend them to your fellow parliamentarians.

- **Hold government accountable by imposing a legal obligation to meet the established targets.**
- **Ensure that targets and plans are set further in advance, 10 years, with more regular reporting to allow for better planning.**
- **Establish carbon budgets rather than milestones for the target years to provide more specific guidance and certainty.**
- **Start by making the first target date 2025 rather than 2030 and set a stronger emissions target of at least 50% by 2030.**
- **Require regular reporting on climate change impacts, plans for adaptation, and progress in order to ensure we are meeting our goals and to making a just transition for workers, Indigenous peoples, and all communities who will be most affected by climate change.**
- **Improve the advisory body by including more independent scientific experts who have the capacity and resources to conduct the detailed analysis necessary to advise on targets and plans and to monitor government progress. The emphasis needs to be on science to guide the politics.**

- **Coordinate dialogue and incentivize provincial, territorial and municipal governments, with indigenous input, to reach cooperative means of sharing GHC reduction across the country.**

Yours Respectfully,

Chris Freypons
Toronto, Ontario.