

Charlottetown, PE  
August 7, 2020

Standing Committee on Finance  
House of Commons of Canada  
Ottawa, ON

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to urge you to make a just, green recovery the central, guiding principle of your deliberations. In this terrible moment in history, when our decisions will make the difference between moving toward a better life for all who survive the pandemic and the catastrophic environmental consequences of business as usual, we must be building a just, green future.

The time has come for the fossil fuel industry to be stopped from its extraction of subsidies and favours from the people's government, and be made to pay for its negative impacts on the planet and its biosphere, including but not limited to Canada's citizens. We cannot continue to allow our health and future be the "externalities" that allow the owners of these corporations to enrich themselves at our expense.

Like most of you in government, I have benefited from the prosperity that has been fostered by our petroleum-based economy, but the time has come to retrofit our way of life, and build a new, more just, less carbon intensive future.

I do not need to enumerate the details of the impact of fossil fuel development on our climate. Others, much more qualified than I, a retired psychologist, will provide you with the data and modelling to make plain the urgency of the situation.

Your budget can set the country on the right track toward climate justice, or continue to bow to the hegemony of King Carbon. You have been vested with this awesome power and responsibility.

We use the phrase "crime against humanity" to describe acts that are of much more limited scale than that which has been and is being perpetrated by the fossil fuel industry. These have in actuality been limited to single countries or regions of the earth. What is being committed here is not only a crime against all humanity, but against all life on the planet: Ecocide.

I beg you not to be accomplices to this crime. History will not be kind to those who obsequiously acquiesce to demands of a poisonous, murderous industry.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Respectfully submitted,

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