

April 25, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Re: Focus economic stimulus on climate change and the resilience of the Canadian economy

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

During this challenging time, we appreciate the efforts of leaders across the country to work together to focus on the health, well-being and economic security of Canadians.

I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Canada's future health and economic resilience by taking bold action that will not only help Canadians to recover from the current severe economic crisis, but that will also kick-start the transformation of the Canadian economy to one which will meet our 2050 net-zero carbon emissions commitment.

We are experiencing a pivotal moment in Canadian and world history. As decisions around important economic stimulus funding are made, I urge you to make all stimulus and relief decisions through the lens of Canada's ability to meet its climate commitments. This will support future economic resilience in a decarbonizing global market.

Also, I urge you to hold the course on planned policy initiatives to support Canada in achieving its climate commitments, while supporting the creation of high-quality jobs. It is important that the targets and timelines for implementing the Clean Fuel Standard are maintained, as such a market mechanism is a key tool in helping to rebuild and increase the resilience of the national economy, and its ability to meet emissions reductions targets.

I would also encourage you to ensure that any stimulus spending which targets a particular industry is rolled out in a manner that makes this stimulus money a down payment on the industry's ability to meet federal climate and energy regulations and greenhouse gas targets.

I would like to communicate my support for the [Pembina Institute's Green Stimulus recommendations](#), published on March 30, 2020, which include the following key principles:

1. Stimulus funding priority should be given to initiatives that support employment opportunities that are resilient to future economic shocks and disruption as the world seeks to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
2. Investments that support the development of industries and businesses producing low- and zero-carbon goods and services should be prioritized to grow the foundation for Canada's low-carbon economy and secure our domestic supply chain.
3. Investments in industry should incent decarbonization efforts that go beyond existing regulatory requirements.
4. Where possible, all stimulus and relief decisions should be made through the lens of Canada's ability to meet its climate commitments.

I agree with Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, in his call to [Put clean energy at the heart of stimulus plans to counter the coronavirus crisis](#). He states that “Large-scale investment to boost the development, deployment and integration of clean energy technologies ... should be a central part of governments’ plans,” and that, these will “bring the twin benefits of stimulating economies and accelerating clean energy transition.”

I am a supporter of the volunteer non-profit organization Bow Valley Climate Action, based in Canmore and Banff, Alberta. Over the past year, this organization has focused on supporting the towns of Canmore and Banff to implement their ambitious climate action plans and educating local residents and businesses on how they can reduce greenhouse gas emissions at work, home and play. Despite strong efforts at the local and regional levels to address climate change, many policy levers to make more fundamental shifts in decarbonizing our economies lie at the federal and provincial levels. We need your help!

We fully acknowledge that the economic transformation towards a low-carbon economy will be more challenging in some regions of Canada than others, such as Alberta, and that special and significant efforts will be required to support the just transition for workers who are currently employed in high carbon industries.

Just as Canadians are setting aside political differences and working hard in the spirit of cooperation, creativity and collaboration to fight the novel coronavirus for our collective well-being, we can use the same determination, creativity and hard work to come together to address one of the biggest threats to our collective wellbeing of our time: climate change.

Sincerely,

CC: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister
Bill Morneau, Finance Minister
Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Banff-Airdrie

Mayor John Borrowman and Town of Canmore Council
Mayor Karen Sorensen and Town of Banff Council