

May 4, 2012

Margaret Biggs
President
Canadian International Development Agency
200 Promenade du Portage,
Gatineau, ON
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Dear Ms. Biggs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed purpose, focus, and activities of Canadian International Institute on Extractive Industries and Development (CIIEID).

Canadian businesses operating internationally want to contribute to building capacity in host countries and Canadian Chamber members in the oil, gas and mining sectors are very interested in the CIIEID's development.

My comments will focus on the Institute's focus and role.

Regarding the Institute's focus, I suggest that (under Strengthening Resource Governance), "responsible national policies" should include "and their enforcement." While enforcement is mentioned later, it needs to be included in the establishment of the policies. Responsible national policies have meaning only if they are enforced. Businesses and other stakeholders need certainty, and that includes regulations that are enforced with regularity and predictability.

The Institute's role as a "clearing house" for providing "education, training and knowledge-sharing opportunities", should explicitly state that the Institute must have the capacity to pursue partnerships with Canadian bodies having any required expertise it lacks, for example other educational institutions, industry associations and specific companies as required/appropriate. It is unlikely that any single institution can provide all of the expertise required in the mandate. It is only by having the ability to readily access resources it does not have internally that the Institute will be able to fully meet its mandate to provide "training and practical, technical assistance on managing extractive sector operations and strengthening resource governance" to developing countries.

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I hope that you find this brief submission of assistance. Thank you again for the opportunity to offer comments.

Sincerely,



Susanna Cluff-Clyburne
Director, Parliamentary Affairs