

Office of the President and
Chief Executive Officer

Cabinet du président
et chef de la direction

December 5, 2014

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment Canada
28th Floor, 10 Wellington Street
Terrasses de la Chaudière
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister:

In September, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 85th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Charlottetown, PEI. A highlight of the Canadian Chamber's AGM is the Policy Session, where the resolutions submitted by local chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada are debated and voted on by accredited delegates. Once approved, these resolutions become policy of the Canadian Chamber for the following three years.

In 2014, our delegates issued a clear and decisive national policy mandate that we intend to pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months. Our renewed national policy mandate includes the following issues which fall within your portfolio:

A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Canada

This resolution calls on the federal government to develop and implement a national strategy on climate change adaptation in collaboration with provincial, territorial and municipal governments. We are also asking government to provide incentives for academic institutions and businesses to create and market adaptation measures, technologies and processes as a means of creating economic resilience.

Canadian Air Quality Management System (AQMS)

This resolution calls on the federal government to ensure that its role in managing Canadian air quality is focused on CAAQS, BLIERs, air-zone development and establishment, and on controls related to transportation. We ask that the government not create federal air emission controls under CEPA that would be duplicative of the provincial controls already in place. In addition, the federal government should increase its national ambient air monitoring network by integrating the existing provincial/territorial and municipal systems and ensuring prompt and public reporting of data.

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A Harmonized Approach to Extended Producer Responsibility in Canada

This resolution calls for the federal, provincial and territorial governments to continue to work through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment towards a harmonized approach to extended producer responsibility programs. We ask provinces and territories to adopt a flexible, non-prescriptive approach to fee visibility as well as on the optimal design of EPR management programs to ensure efficient and competitive system.

Consistent Regulatory Acceptance for Chemicals Relating to Soil and Water Treatment

This resolution recommends measures that would prevent regulation from acting as a barrier to the acceptance of new chemicals and processes to treat water and soil contaminated by heavy industry. The resolution calls on the federal government to work with their provincial and territorial counterparts to develop consistent regulations across Canada for the chemicals used for water and soil treatment. In addition, it calls for regulations to apply equally to new and existing products, processes or technologies.

Protecting Western Canada's Fresh Waters from Zebra and Quagga Mussels

This resolution recommends measures that would help prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into Canadian waters. Recommendations include enacting legislation that empowers the Canada Border Services Agency to detain, inspect and refuse admission to Canada to any vehicle contaminated with zebra or quagga mussels, as well as appropriate support to provinces and territories engaged in combating zebra and quagga mussels in their waters.

Copies of the complete texts of these resolutions are attached and we would be pleased to discuss them with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachments