



ALBERTA
ENERGY

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley*

NOV 10 2016

AR27095

Ms. Lisa Holmes
President
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
president@auma.ca

Dear Ms. Holmes:

Thank you for your recent emails regarding the AUMA's 2016 resolutions as they relate to Alberta Energy. Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, has also reviewed your emails and asked that I respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Regarding your resolution relating to market access for oil and natural gas exports, I assure you and your members that the Government of Alberta is committed to diversifying markets for our energy products. We recognize that the world is a global market, and to access that global market, we have to break Alberta's land-lock.

Since our government came into office, we have taken several steps to demonstrate our commitment to responsible energy production and our leadership on climate change – both of which are key to gaining support for infrastructure development. We are continuing to explore all options to get our energy products to tidewater in the most efficient, cost-effective ways possible, while being mindful of our responsibilities to the environment. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to advocate for our province as the federal government makes several key decisions that will affect our collective future.

Thank you for also sharing your resolution proposing the continued operation of coal-fired power plants that can develop clean coal-burning methods. Eliminating emissions from coal is the right thing to do for Albertans' health and the environment, and we are committed to a measured and thoughtful approach that considers the impact on communities, industry, and electricity consumers. If new technology is developed to produce zero pollution from coal, it could be considered once again as a feasible option for electricity generation in our province.

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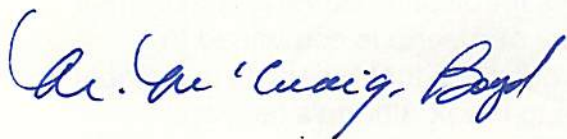
Transitioning off coal-fired generation is a complex challenge that will impact industries and communities. The government is committed to a transition that will help ensure Alberta consumers and taxpayers are protected, communities and workers are supported, and companies and investors are treated fairly throughout this process.

Over the coming months, the Advisory Panel on Coal Communities will begin discussions with those most affected by the retirement of coal-fired generation plants. Participants will include municipalities, community economic development organizations, small businesses, workers, and First Nations. The panel's goal is to gather information about challenges and opportunities, share information and resources about current programs and supports, and generate ideas for training and new opportunities.

While our government applauds the AUMA's initiative to recognize the contributions of Alberta's energy industry, government is not actively pursuing the proposal at this time.

Thank you, once again, for sharing these recommendations. The Government of Alberta values the support and advocacy of your members on these critical files.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ms. Margaret McCuaig-Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Margaret McCuaig-Boyd
Minister

cc: Honourable Deron Bilous
Minister of Economic Development and Trade