



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 14, 2018

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Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

As Mayor and Council of the City of Rossland, in British Columbia, Canada, we are writing to secure your commitment to pay your fair share of the costs of climate change that face our community. Climate change is the direct result of pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels, including from your products. Like other cities around the world, we are increasingly concerned about the harmful effects that climate change will have on our community.

We are seeing the impacts of climate change directly affect our region and the infrastructure and services that we provide as a local government to our residents. It would be financially irresponsible of us to assume that our taxpayers will bear the full costs of these impacts of fossil fuel pollution, while you and your shareholders continue to benefit financially from the sale of fossil fuels.

We know that individual consumers, and our community members, use fossil fuels. However, your industry has played a large role in creating the risks and costs that we now face as a community. You have had the power to move your company towards a more sustainable business model since you first became aware of the impacts of climate change, decades ago, but have not done enough.

Our region is expected to experience more rain on snow events, shorter winters and longer, hotter summers with more drought and increased fire conditions. These changes are all associated with climate change. Planning, building and maintaining local infrastructure is made far more costly, due to the impacts of climate change. The recovery costs from a disastrous event are immense.

We are doing our part: The City of Rossland's Official Community Plan and our Strategic Sustainability Plan both identify climate change as a threat to our community's viability. We have adopted a Climate Change Action Plan, a WaterSmart Action Plan and a Strategic Energy and Emissions Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, buildings and waste. We have enacted bylaws to prevent vehicle idling and reduced the speed limit in town to 30km. We have an Active Transportation Plan that encourages bike paths, sidewalks and trail linkages to encourage non-motorized modalities. Our zoning bylaw encourages in-fill development and discourages sprawl, thus reducing the need for fossil fuels.

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We live under the constant threat of wildfires. We have invested significantly in clearing fuel from municipal lands and partnering with residents to reduce combustibles on private lands. We have increased our investment in regional Emergency Preparedness with regional partners. Our storm water system has been subject to flooding due an increase of extreme rain events, causing drains to overflow and some basements in private homes to flood. We have had to increase the size of pipes to compensate for these increased flows. We rely entirely on snowpack and streams to supply all of our domestic water needs. The reliability of this precious resource becomes more tenuous due to the changing climate. In recent years we have imposed ever more stringent water restrictions starting in June and continuing until the fall rains come. We are expending significant funds in order to upgrade our water meter system to allow for conservation water pricing. We have had universal water metering throughout town for nearly 10 years.

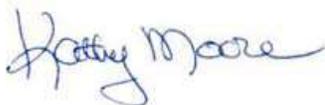
We are investing in our own infrastructure to ensure we are able to maintain resilience and adapt to the changing climate and the impacts to our operations, utilities and services. We are a very small community of only 3,729 inhabitants. Our local government relies primarily on residential taxpayers to shoulder the burden of these extraordinary costs. As we move forward with preparing our community and infrastructure for climate change, we will be incurring significant additional costs as a result of the increased severity of climate change attributable to your products and operations.

At present we are only beginning to understand the potential magnitude of increased local costs for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. We know that cities didn't cause the climate problem on their own and we can't solve it on our own. We know that costs will increase as climate change impacts worsen. We recognize that everyone is going to need to do their part to address climate change. We are taking steps, we are asking you to take responsibility for the harm caused by your products and to take significant and meaningful action to move to a more sustainable business model.

While we recognize that individual consumers and businesses play a role in the fossil fuel economy, your company has had the power to lead the transition away from that outdated model. New options are available to you. All communities expect you to embrace that leadership role and to pay your fair share of the costs associated with preparing for climate change.

As in manufacturing, we expect your industry to take cradle-to-grave responsibility for your product – and that starts by taking responsibility for its effects in the atmosphere and the resulting harm to communities. In addition, we would like to hear what steps you plan to take to reduce or eliminate the future impacts of your company's products on our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to your response.



Mayor Kathy Moore

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