



CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIKE HURLEY
MAYOR

2019 February 21

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Honourable John Horgan:

Subject: Climate Action and Liability

I am writing, on behalf of Burnaby City Council, to urge the Government of British Columbia to create legislation allowing municipal governments to launch and join class action lawsuits against fossil fuel companies for climate-related harms. We are seeking legislation similar to Bill 21, "An Act Respecting Civil Liability for Climate-Related Harms," as introduced in the Ontario legislature in 2018.

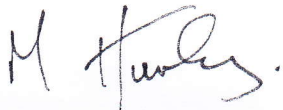
The City of Burnaby has undertaken a series of measures to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change and its impact in areas within our control. Burnaby Council has also taken a strong position against the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline because of its impact on global carbon emissions and climate change. However, the actions that are within our purview are only part of the solution.

We support litigation against fossil fuel companies because they contribute to climate change, profit from the sale of their products and do not pay for the damages caused by burning oil, gas and coal. The negative effects of climate change include loss of, and damage to, life, property, infrastructure, and environmental assets. The impact of these harms to municipal governments include costs associated with emergency response and mitigation, infrastructure improvements, increased insurance, climate research and monitoring, and public education.

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The impetus for our request arose from a citizen's delegation, whose members are copied on this correspondence. Burnaby Council continues to be a strong voice for strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. We seek your support in taking further action in support of our community.

Very truly yours,



Mike Hurley
MAYOR

Copy: Honourable David Eby, Attorney General
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment

Mr. Larry Meyers
Mr. Gordon Cornwall
Mr. Barry Jones
Mr. Karl Perrin, BROKE