



**January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**Attn: Chief Executive Officer**

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Climate Adaptation in the North Coast Regional District – Your Company’s Responsibility**

As you may be aware, the North Coast Regional District (NCRD) is a coastal region in northern British Columbia (B.C.) comprised of 5 municipalities including the City of Prince Rupert, District of Port Edward and the Villages of Masset, Queen Charlotte and Port Clements. The NCRD also includes 4 electoral areas which encompass a number of Haida, Tsimshian, and other unincorporated communities. The NCRD spans a total geographic area of 19,617km<sup>2</sup> and is home to nearly 20,000 people and a variety of large-scale industrial operations, including those within the jurisdiction of the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

As our name implies, our communities are located on the coast and, like coastal communities across the globe, we are increasingly concerned with climate change, including its impacts to sea level rise, intensified storms and coastal erosion.

The Province of B.C. has advised coastal communities to upgrade our infrastructure to withstand a one-metre increase in sea-level rise by 2100, although some climate scientists warn that sea level rise may be faster and more dramatic than is anticipated.

As the elected government of the NCRD, we have a responsibility to our residents to ensure that our infrastructure and services are developed and maintained in ways consistent with the expected impacts of climate change, and that our residents are well protected from these impacts. The NCRD, like a number of its member municipalities, is already incurring expenses to plan for and build infrastructure to withstand flooding, storms and coastal erosion attributed to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change – as a result of pollution caused by the use of your products – is already occurring, and growing more severe as you continue to market your products and develop fossil fuel reserves that are inconsistent with the globally agreed goal of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C. It has been estimated that your company, along with the other top 19 fossil fuel companies, are responsible – through your operations and products – for nearly 30% of historic human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.



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We recognize that individual consumers do play, collectively, a significant role in the fossil fuel economy. Our communities have been built around the cheap energy that oil and gas products offer, and we know that we need to pursue alternatives. We also know that our taxpayers will end up paying some of the costs associated with climate change.

However, your company has profited from selling the products that give rise to climate change and has been aware of the types of impacts that fossil fuel pollution would cause communities such as ours since, at least, the 1960's. Your industry has had the knowledge and means to lead the transition away from fossil fuels to a more sustainable economy, but has instead lobbied against global action on climate change.

Not only would it be unfair, it would be poor economics to insist that taxpayers cover all of the costs of climate change while your industry pays nothing beyond corporate taxes. We ask that you pay your fair share of the climate costs incurred as the NCRD and its communities work to plan for, build and modify infrastructure and services to develop more climate change resilient communities. Similarly, if climate change harms our communities, we expect you to assist with the costs of rebuilding the community.

To put it simply, you cannot make billions of dollars in corporate profit, knowing that the sale of your products is causing significant financial hardship to communities around the world, and not expect to pay a fair share of the costs outlined above.

In addition to financially contributing to the mitigation of climate change impacts, we would like to hear what proactive steps you are taking to reduce or eliminate the future impacts of your company's products on our community, and the world as a whole.

We are committed to doing our part to minimize the costs and impacts of climate change, and we look forward to confirmation that you will do your part as well.

Best regards,



**Barry Pages**

*Chair*



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