



Friday, December 5, 2008

The Honourable James Flaherty
Minister of Finance
Minister's Office, L'Esplanade Laurier
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

Letter by E-Mail: flaherty.james@fin.gc.ca

Re: Providing Stimulus to the Canadian Economy Through and Expansion and Extension of the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power Program in the 2009 Federal Budget

Dear Minister Flaherty:

The Clean Air Renewable Energy (CARE) Coalition is urging you to stimulate the Canadian economy in the 2009 Federal Budget by expanding and extending the extremely successful ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program (eERP) so that it will support the deployment of 12,000 MW (an additional 8,000 MW) of renewable energy in Canada by March 31, 2014.

The eERP is currently scheduled to allocate all of its funding, supporting the deployment of 4,000 MW of new renewable power in Canada, by March 31, 2009. With more than 11,000 MW of applications already submitted to this program, the possibilities of building an industry are enormous.

The program represents an additional commitment of \$2.6 billion (approximately \$190 million per year over 14 years). As the program extension ramps up, this proposal will only cost \$15 million in the first year (2009), \$40 million in 2010 and slightly more than \$600 million in total between 2009 and 2014. A Federal government accelerated infrastructure investment of this nature will result in well over \$6 billion in domestic investment and 8,000 new jobs in Canada over the next five years.

Your government's recent Throne Speech made a commitment that 90 percent of Canada's electricity would be produced from non-emitting sources by 2020. Only an increased deployment in low-impact renewable power will assist in the implementation of that goal, which the CARE Coalition strongly supports. Therefore, rather than ending the funding for eERP, it is important to accelerate investment in renewables by expanding and extending ecoENERGY for Renewable Power.

Please find attached a Briefing Note and Backgrounder that provides more details of the rationale for the expansion and extension of the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power Program. Some key highlights include:

BC Hydro • Canadian Hydro Developers • Cloudworks • ConocoPhillips Canada • EarthFirst
Fred.Olsen Renewables • Friends of the Earth • International Institute for Sustainable Development
NaiKun Wind • Ontario Power Generation Inc. • Pembina Institute • Plutonic Power • Pollution Probe • Shell Canada Limited
Suncor Energy Inc. • The Delphi Group • Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) • Toronto Hydro
Western GeoPower Corp • World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF)

Website: www.cleanairrenewableenergycoalition.com



- Renewable energy investment in North American will flow to more attractive opportunities in the United States if Canadian opportunities become less competitive
- Provinces may likely scale down their plans for renewable power if there is no federal support
- Canada will reduce its ability to “Turn the Corner” on greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2020 as only a limited set of options, of which renewable power is one, can make a difference in that timeframe in the electricity sector
- Greenhouse gas offsets are not a substitute for the eERP, and would provide significantly less value than the eERP in virtually all of Canada
- Renewable energy provides substantial benefits for Canada’s rural and remote communities, helping them to diversify their economies and stabilize their tax base.

At a time when the country needs programs that provide economic stimulus, now is not the time to end the eERP program and reduce Canada’s ability to compete for global renewable energy investment. Expanding and extending the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program with an announcement in the 2009 Budget would help to build an industry, create a stable environment for investment and job creation, be popular with the voting public, and would provide clean air/greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark S. Rudolph", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark S. Rudolph
Coordinator – Clean Air Renewable Energy Coalition

cc: The Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister
The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources
The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment
The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry

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