

December 5, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jim Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to **implore you to remove tax subsidies to the fossil fuel sector in the next federal budget**. The world is moving towards a clean energy economy, and I believe that Canada has a duty to future generations to tackle environmental issues by removing ongoing tax breaks and subsidies to the fossil fuel sector.

At the last three G20 summits, you committed to "Rationalize and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption."

Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies will have two key outcomes:

- Energy conservation: Artificially low costs of fossil fuels have been shown to encourage wasteful consumption, distort energy markets and allow for increased greenhouse gas pollution, thereby fuelling the climate crisis
- Investment in energy alternatives: Subsidizing oil extraction makes investments in oil more attractive compared to lower carbon, lower risk alternatives, thereby increasing the lock-in of economies into fossil fuels.

I urge you to present your action plan for phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies immediately. Please keep me informed of your actions and timetable to remove these subsidies as promised.

Yours truly,

signature

printed name

address

city

postal code

.cc Ms. Elizabeth May
Hon. Michael Ignatieff
Hon. Jack Layton
Hon. Gilles Duceppe