



November 24, 2010

The Right Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C. M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Helping Canadians and their businesses invest in greater energy efficiency is like providing them with a tax cut.

Energy efficiency is unique among energy sources in that it pays for itself through savings. Not only do investments in efficiency create green jobs and increase productivity, they reduce carbon emissions and upgrade building stock at virtually no cost. However, history has shown that energy users are reluctant to make these investments in the absence of leadership by governments.

The diverse organizations we represent came together in a dialogue earlier this year to discuss the feasibility and possible elements of a national energy efficiency strategy. We are pleased to enclose the results of this dialogue. We agreed that federal measures to encourage investment in efficiency are vitally important – getting agreement on national targets, maintaining and expanding national efficiency support services, strengthening national efficiency regulations, and leading market transformation through procurement.

We request that your government now take the lead in advancing this dialogue.

In the short-term, we urge you and Minister Flaherty to include new energy efficiency initiatives in the upcoming federal budget that build on the strong foundations of the EcoEnergy programs that would otherwise expire on March 31, 2011. Examples of some of the measures we are proposing for Budget 2011 include:

1. Re-designing the current EcoEfficiency Retrofit program for homes to include targets to upgrade all of Canada's housing stock, certification of renovators, innovative "pay as you save" financing, and direct investment in retrofits for families who can least afford to pay;
2. Increased support for industries, small business, transport companies, and buildings that adopt energy efficient practices; and
3. A Green Bond system to support loans for energy-efficiency improvements in all sectors.

At the same time we would like to see Canada develop and implement a comprehensive energy efficiency plan like many of our OECD partners, and lead by example by retrofitting more federal facilities.

Representatives of our organizations would be pleased to meet with members of your staff or those of Minister Flaherty or other ministers to discuss our proposals – particularly our recommendations for energy efficiency programs to be included in the upcoming federal budget as well as on-going cooperation on energy efficiency policy.

We look forward to your reply and discussion on this important issue. For further information and to make appointments, please contact Roger Peters at rogerp@cyberus.ca or 613 521-4004.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the organizations listed below



Ken Elsey
President & CEO, Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEA)



Roger Peters
National Secretary, Canadian Renewable Energy Alliance (CanREA)

cc Hon. James Flaherty, Minister of Finance
Hon. John Baird, Minister of Environment
Hon. Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources

Peter Love, Adjunct Professor
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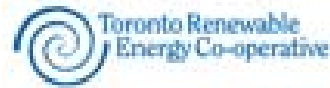
Suzanne Kiraly, EVP Government
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Thomas Mueller, President/CEO
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Judith Lipp, Executive Director
Toronto Renewable Energy Coop



Tony Clarke, Executive Director
The Polaris Institute



Allyson Brady, Executive Director
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Bob Oliver, Executive Director
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Rick Smith, Executive Director
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FOREST ETHICS

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