

January 16, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Saskatchewan is home to various economic sectors that include, but is not limited to, agriculture, mining, industry, heavy construction and various other small to mid-size businesses. Representatives from this diverse group of industry share concerns around what effect a national carbon tax will have on their local businesses and to our provincial economy.

While we collectively support efforts to address climate change challenges and protect the environment, it is important to us all that the best available policy tools are implemented at the provincial and federal government levels to reach this goal. While the Government of Saskatchewan has discussed such policy tools in the Climate Change White Paper that the Province has or plans to undertake, such as heavy investments in clean coal and further developments in carbon related innovations, no research that proving that taxing carbon reduces emissions has been made available to us by the Federal Government.

As such, the organizations, undersigned to this letter, all agree that a national carbon tax will have a net cost rather than a net benefit to the Saskatchewan economy regardless of the measures the Province of Saskatchewan puts in place to alleviate its impacts. We believe that a carbon tax will increase costs for producers, firms and businesses resulting in carbon leakage, lost competitiveness and income. Therefore, we are unified in our opposition to a federally imposed tax on carbon emissions.

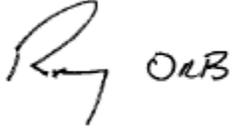
The industries undersigned to this letter are all unfairly exposed to the negative impacts of a carbon tax. As such, we would have expected our Federal Government to have initiated an assessment of the economic impact a carbon tax will have on each sector across Canada in addition to consulting with our industries prior to making a firm decision on this policy tool. We believe the information gleaned from an economic impact assessment and thorough consultations would have helped the Federal and Provincial Governments formulate a climate change strategy that leads to both environmental sustainability and economic development to support the well-being of all Canadians.

Addressing climate change, protecting the environment and supporting economic development is a process that requires collaboration between all stakeholders. In order to achieve these goals, we need to foster the development of partnerships between government and industry rather than unilaterally imposed decisions that affect us all.

We respectfully request the Federal Government to reverse its decision on the requirement of provinces and territories to implement a price on carbon by 2018 until adequate research and consultation on the matter have been undertaken.

For future correspondence the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) has offered to coordinate and distribute any reply. We look forward to your response on this important matter and we appreciate your consideration of our viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Ray Orb, President, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Myles Thorpe, President, Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association

Shantel Lipp, President, Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association

Shane Jahnke, President, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

Florian Possberg, Chairman, Sask Pork

Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

 
Western Canadian
Wheat Growers

Levi Wood, President, Western Canadian Wheat Growers

 
WESTERN
Equipment Dealers Association

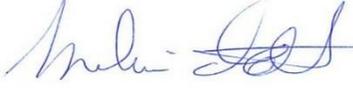
John Schmeiser, CEO, Western Equipment Dealers Association

 
Taxpayer.com

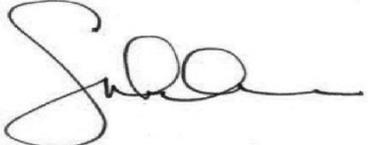
Todd MacKay, Prairie Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

 
APAS
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Todd Lewis, President, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

 
Sask Milk

Melvin Foth, Chair, Sask Milk

 
SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Steve McLellan, CEO, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment & Climate Change