

January 3, 2017
New Norway, Alberta

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (2017.01.06)
Environment Committee (2017.01.17)

Mayor and Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor and Council:

As a concerned Canadian I am sending this document for your consideration when you make decisions with regards to the possible flow of fossil fuels to and through the port at Burnaby to international markets. Thank you for any consideration that you may afford this submission.

The Gift of Fossil Fuels

How reliant is our modern civilization on fossil fuels? Well, this is how reliant we are on fossil fuels: if all the things that rely on fossil fuels, as a necessary element for their existence; if all these things were taken from us, we would all be left homeless, penniless, naked and starving. We would have nothing. Let us use water as an example. The instant we turn on the water tap in our home to draw a glass of water to drink, we have relied on fossil fuels in countless ways. The entire water distribution system utilized fossil fuels from being simple raw materials, to manufactured components, to the transportation and installation of these components. Now tie this distribution system into our home plumbing system which also has relied on fossil fuels for being there. Now fill this distribution system with potable water, which will have its own story of reliance on fossil fuels. Next consider the glass in our hand. It as well has its own story of reliance on fossil fuels for its existence. Now expand that further to the food we eat, the clothes we wear, every single item in our home plus our home itself, all having their own stories of reliance on fossil fuels. Are you beginning to comprehend just how intertwined fossil fuels are in providing for us and for sustaining us?

What are the major causes of the ever increasing demand for sources of energy and for energy consumption? Increasing global population; the associated urban sprawl this population increase creates; the need develop, service and supply these areas of urban sprawl, the quest for economic growth and our decadent nature are the major factors in increasing energy consumption of all forms and the associated negative impacts this energy consumption causes. With our decadent nature and short-sightedness we have squandered a large portion of the global fossil fuel reserve and we continue to do so.

I wonder how some people envision fueling sectors such as: mining, forestry, agriculture, fishing, aviation, shipping, transportation's (various sectors), construction's (various sectors) and manufacturing sector as examples. I have serious doubts that any advancement in developments, in what is not termed "Green" or "Renewable" energy, will be able to keep up with increasing demands for all sources of energy let alone reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. For instance, how much arable land can be designated for and devoted to crops dedicated for production of Bio-fuels? Capturing Hydrogen in large quantities to replace fossil fuels is still far from being proven as an alternative. The increasing global population may mean that our reliance on fossil fuel will never diminish. The only real answer to decreasing our use of and continued reliance on fossil fuels, and other sources of energy, is for a massive reduction in the global population to occur or barring that the next best solution would be a massive mindset change on our part regarding how we utilize energy. In my view, the way to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels is not to use an all in-composing penalizing carbon tax on fossil fuels but the focus

should be on curbing the non-essential use of fossil fuels. This would have been the ideal time for the Government of Alberta to place the carbon tax, not at the source of all carbon fuel consumption (which includes both essential and non-essential use of fossil fuels) but on non-essential services and products similar to a Sales Tax. This would place a portion of the penalizing tax on the imported non-essential element that would normally be beyond our control.

We need to settle for less extravagant, simpler lifestyle where we are satisfied with having our needs met rather than our wants. The fact of the matter is that, en masse, densely populated areas, including the lower mainland of British Columbia, have been, are and will continue to be the source of the major threat to the ecology and global environment simply because of their existence. In spite of the aforementioned examples of how reliant, on fossil fuels, we have been in the past, currently are and will be in the future, some take the position that to protect the environment and ecosystem in their area, the flow of fossil fuel to global markets through their area will be blocked, regardless however minute this risk may be. We and our stuff are causing a massive and unnecessary consumption of fossil fuel resources. The majority of us in Canada are a rather pampered and decadent society. We have nice homes that are filled with stuff. We have garages and storage sheds filled with stuff. We stand in lines waiting to purchase the latest in electronic devices, other consumer electronics and other stuff, non-essential stuff. We take luxury vacations, cruises and travel to and fro without much concern with how much fossil fuel is required for us to do so. Cargo ship after cargo ship enters port loaded with containers filled with, mainly unnecessary stuff. Then train load after train load; truck load after truck load disperse a lot of unnecessary stuff throughout the country. I will say it again; it is on this non-essential element of energy consumption in our society where penalizing taxes should be applied.

Why are activists not blockading the dock where massive cargo ships unload container after container filled with stuff? Why are they not blockading the trainloads filled with these containers of stuff heading from port to inland destinations? Why are protectors not picketing airports or cruise lines or travel agencies? I am at a loss to explain how some can vow to block the flow of fossil fuels to markets through their areas yet still expect to reap the benefit that fossil fuels affords them. In my view this stance is riddled with hypocrisy. It appears that some never consider or realize that they themselves are a major part of the problems caused by our use of fossil fuels.

I, for one am so thankful and grateful for this gift, this life-blood that fossil fuels have been, is and will be to us and our civilization. We, of course, all need to be good stewards concerning our use of this life sustaining gift that fossil fuels are and we should always be searching for ways to reduce our reliance upon them. Responsible use of fossil fuels also means we need responsible distribution of them for the benefit of all and the obvious place for this distribution to take place to international markets is through the same ports where the international trade, which is fueled by fossil fuels, enters.

As author of this document, I reserve the right to share it and its content with whomever I deem necessary and /or appropriate and I extend this same right to any named or unnamed recipients.

Sincerely,



Joel Schiele
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New Norway, AB
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C.c. to Unnamed Recipients.