

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

May 27, 2022

Barry Singleton
Western Energy Corridor Incorporated
Barry.Singleton@WesternEnergyCorridor.ca

Dear Barry Singleton:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 14, 2022, regarding your Western Energy Corridor proposal, and for sharing your views on how this could help Canada further support global energy access and security, in light of the current crisis in Ukraine and other global energy challenges. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

As you allude to, global energy markets are currently experiencing supply and demand challenges that are being exacerbated by Russia's unjustifiable and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, which is causing widespread human suffering and destruction. As Europe works to address the geopolitical and socio-economic vulnerabilities highlighted by current events, the Government of Canada, where possible, is assessing how Canada's natural resources sector can help stabilize supply chains in global markets. |

These events have underscored the need to address longer-term global energy needs and energy security if the world is also to achieve success in the energy transition. This crisis has impacted fuel costs and supply chains around the world, causing economies to revert to higher-emitting, less expensive fuels to meet energy needs and avoid energy poverty and socio-economic instability. We will continue to assess what more we can do to assist our European partners in a manner that accounts for and works to minimize domestic emissions and that ensures that any net additional emissions are incorporated into Canada's climate plan.

With respect to resource development within Canada, the Government of Canada recognizes the importance of accessing new and emerging markets for our natural resources. As a major producer and exporter of oil and gas, Canada has a responsibility to lead by example during this transition to produce the lowest carbon intensity fuels now and in the future, and to share expertise and lessons learned on how to transition to lower-carbon alternatives.

Canada

Canada is committed to developing these resources in a sustainable manner that protects Canada's rich natural environment, respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and supports a more resilient natural resources sector. This resiliency includes developing infrastructure that aligns with Canada's stringent environmental and safety standards. Resource corridors may be a means of achieving these objectives, when they meet relevant regulatory and market requirements.

Our Government remains committed to reviewing and seeing viable, good projects built that meet environmental, economic, social, Indigenous and safety obligations and considerations.

Regarding your reference to an expedited regional assessment of the Western Energy Corridor, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for determining whether a regional assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* is warranted. Please contact Terence Hubbard, President of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

<original signed by>

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
(he/him/il)

c.c.: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
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