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Robert J. Shutzman, Chair, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
1630 - 1920 Broad Street
REGINA SK S4P 3V2

Dear Mr. Shutzman:

Thank you for sharing your response regarding the Expert Panel's recommendations and the Government of Canada's options for federal environmental assessment (EA) reform as outlined in the report *Building Common Ground: A New Vision for Impact Assessment in Canada*. Your perspective on the report provides the Ministry of Environment with a fulsome understanding of the broad implications the panel's recommendations may have on industry in Saskatchewan.

The ministry agrees with some of the principles outlined in the report, including advanced project planning, evidence-based decision making, streamlined regulatory coordination and meaningful public engagement. However, we have many concerns with the proposed implementation of these principles in a renewed federal EA process. Overall, Saskatchewan views the report's recommendations as unworkable if implemented as proposed.

Project proponents are a critical factor in a successful EA process and the ministry is greatly concerned with the disproportionate consideration of the proponent's perspective throughout the report and recommendations. Saskatchewan has strongly encouraged Canada to further engage industry and obtain a clear understanding of the implications of the report's recommendations before proposing legislative amendments.

The ministry appreciates your comments on the report and is reviewing the issues and concerns your organization has raised. As we continue to engage the federal government on this file, we will continue to voice provincial priorities and interests. It is imperative that a workable solution is found so that economic development can proceed with the appropriate environmental safeguards in place and in a manner the public understands.

The Ministry of Environment looks forward to further discussions with your organization throughout the subsequent phases of the federal EA review. Thank you for sharing your concerns on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Moe".

Scott Moe
Minister of Environment