

February 24, 2016

Mr. Gary Houston Vice-President, Ontario and Prairies Energy East Pipeline Project TransCanada 450 – 1st Street S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 5H1

## Mr. Houston:

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) is a business advocacy organization that represents the interests of over 10,000 businesses and other organizations within the province of Saskatchewan. In addition to provincial and federal lobbying and advocacy activities, the SCC also conducts its own research in a wide variety of areas to inform its opinions on what the government and private sector should be doing to help make Saskatchewan a great place to live, work, and invest.

As a landlocked province that requires a wide variety of infrastructure options (pipelines, rail, trucking) to transport its natural resource products to domestic and world markets, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) supports TransCanada's Energy East pipeline project because it will enhance Saskatchewan's ability to move and sell oil into those markets. By building Energy East, there will also be a reduction in the amount of oil being transported by rail, which will alleviate some of the rail capacity issues that were constraining the export of grain, potash, and manufactured goods.

Saskatchewan and its neighboring western provinces are dependent on having a thriving energy industry that is able to effectively transport and sell its products. Whether it is the creation and growth of primary oil production companies or the multitude of tertiary service companies that support the primary production, having an energy industry that is growing is in the best interest of all those businesses, plus it supports the social programs that governments pay for with oil-related tax revenues. It is critical that this piece of pipeline infrastructure is built in order to support that ongoing energy sector growth by helping to reduce transportation restraints. The Energy East construction process will also create immediate opportunities for companies (equipment suppliers and construction companies) across Canada to participate in the building of the pipeline, as well as support the workers as they build it (hotels, restaurants).

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Energy East pipeline project and we recommend that the Government of Canada work with TransCanada to ensure that the necessary approvals are granted to move forward with this project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Steve McLellan

Chief Executive Officer