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Office of the Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington St.  
Ottawa, ON, K1A-0A2

Montreal, April 12, 2018

Re: Letter calling on the federal government to stop supporting the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain expansion pipeline project

Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,  
Minister of Natural Resources, The Honourable Jim Carr,  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Catherine McKenna,

We write this letter today on behalf of 40 civil society groups and organizations in Quebec working on issues of environmental protection, water conservation, climate change, labour rights, human rights, and solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

The Liberal Party of Canada's platform that led to the election of your government reads as follows: "While governments grant permits for resource development, only communities can grant permission." Given the breadth of opposition from scientists, local municipalities, federal MPs, the government of British Columbia and residents of the province, as well as Indigenous communities on the route of the project and beyond, we believe that your government cannot continue to support Kinder Morgan's pipeline without betraying that commitment and breaking your core promises on climate change, water protection, and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Given the current impasse faced by the Trans Mountain project, we urge you to immediately cease supporting Kinder Morgan's pipeline. Do not turn this pipeline into your political legacy.

Over the last few years, the majority of Quebec's population have expressed their opposition to the Energy East pipeline. For the same reasons, they now stand in solidarity with those opposing the Kinder Morgan project, and take note of your continued support to that project. We remind you that April 11th marks the third anniversary of the historic march in Quebec City where 25,000 people mobilized to demand action on climate and against the tar sands.

Many times, we publicly denounced the National Energy Board's lack of credibility, a review agency which had become far too close to the industry and whose regulations had been weakened to an unacceptable extent under the Harper government. Like our colleagues from other regions of Canada, we therefore demand that Kinder Morgan's pipeline project be stopped and reassessed only once a reform of environmental review rules has been fully completed. In this respect, we believe that the project should never have been approved by your Cabinet in 2016.

With fossil fuels losing momentum throughout the world and a growing number of institutions divesting funds from the oil sector, we find unjustifiable that the federal government of Canada would consider investing public

funds to finance Kinder Morgan's pipeline at a time when the company itself is questioning the viability of the project.

We remind you in particular of your government's commitment to end fossil fuel subsidies. This commitment must be reflected not only in the government's investment decisions, but also in the current environmental assessment reform, bill C-69, which currently opens the door to exemptions for carbon polluters in the oil industry. It is imperative that your government eliminate any possibility of such an exemption in these new environmental rules.

The Trudeau government, in supporting a 20th-century sector of the economy, is failing to live up to its responsibility. The national interest of Canada does not rest in the construction of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline, but in the inevitable energy transition that is so urgently needed in order to counter climate change.

Developing further tar sands production while simultaneously complying with commitments of the Paris Accord to limit global warming to 1.5°C, or even 2°C, is simply impossible. [Reports show that any new pipeline infrastructure is incompatible](#) with that goal. We already know that Canada's current GHG reduction targets will not be met by the measures currently in place, and the tar sands industry bears a significant share of the responsibility for that. Around the world, the development of renewable energy is on the rise, and Canada could take a leading role while supporting an ambitious plan for a rapid and just transition in Alberta.

Your support for Kinder Morgan's pipeline is already damaging the reputation of the government of Canada on the international stage. More than 21,000 messages have been sent to Canadian embassies around the world asking the government to end support for Kinder Morgan. The support that you continue to provide to the pipeline project casts a serious cloud on your credibility as a leader in the fight against climate change.

Know that the population of Quebec attaches great importance to provincial and municipal authority on environmental issues. Allowing Kinder Morgan to move forward while overstepping municipal regulations and the provincial jurisdiction of British Columbia over its territory is unacceptable.

The same applies to respect for the rights of Indigenous people. Knowing that your government has committed to reconciliation with Indigenous people in Canada, there can be no compromise on the free, prior, and informed consent of communities enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which your government ratified.

In 2015, a large number of people in Quebec voted for a change in the federal government based on promises about climate change and the environment. Today, they see the inconsistency between your government's support for Kinder Morgan and implementing these promises. We repeat: Do not turn this pipeline into your political legacy.

We look forward to a positive response.

Respectfully yours,

Signatories:

Action Environnement Basses Laurentides (AEBL)  
Alerte Pétrole Rive-sud  
Alternatives  
Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (AQLPA)  
Centre d'Accompagnement pour un Développement Économique Territorial (CADET)  
Coalition citoyenne Beauce-Etchemin  
Coalition Climat Montréal  
Coalition Vigilance Oléoducs (CoVO)  
Comité des Citoyens et Citoyennes pour la Protection de l'Environnement Maskoutain (CCCPEM)  
Comité gaz de schiste Verchères  
Comité Vigilance Hydrocarbures Brandon  
Comité Vigilance Hydrocarbures des municipalités de la MRC de Maskinongé (Québec)  
Comité Vigilance Hydrocarbures Les Îles  
Comité Vigilance Hydrocarbures L'Assomption  
Comité Vigilance Hydrocarbures Montréal  
Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL)  
Conseil des Canadiens chapitre de Montréal  
Conseil régional FTQ Montréal métropolitain  
Eau Secours  
Environnement Vert Plus (Gaspésie)  
Équiterre  
Fondation Coule pas chez nous  
Fondation Rivières  
GRAMME - Groupe de recherche appliquée en macroécologie  
Greenpeace Canada  
L'Assomption en transition  
Leap Montreal  
MEAC (Mobilisation Environnement Ahuntsic-Cartierville)  
Mur de femmes contre les oléoducs et les sables bitumineux  
Nature Québec  
Projet de la réalité climatique Canada  
Regroupement vigilance hydrocarbures Québec (RVHQ)  
Solidarité NABRO  
SOS Territoire  
Syndicat de la fonction publique et parapublique du Québec (SFPQ)  
Transition Capitale Nationale  
Union paysanne  
Vigilance Hydrocarbure Mont-St-Hilaire  
Vigilance Hydrocarbure Saint-Marc sur Richelieu  
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