



October 20, 2020

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4

Re: Budget 2021 SMR Action Plan: Critical Capacity for Consultation and Outreach

Dear Minister O'Regan,

We appreciate your recognition of the opportunity, potential and need for small modular reactors (SMRs) for Canada to exceed its Paris emission targets, and your support to date to make Canada a global centre of expertise for this technology. Beyond our support for your leadership in this area, and the demonstrable commitment of your department, we are also writing to underscore our view of the paramount importance of substantial and meaningful consultation for the success of this technology in Canada.

While distinct regions within Canada have significant familiarity and comfort with nuclear power, these regions are a minority when compared to the rest of the country. This is certainly true of the remote regions of the provinces and the territories whose communities tend to be isolated across vast land tracts disconnected from each other by physical infrastructure, making meaningful engagement both difficult and costly.

It is our view – unequivocally – that substantial and meaningful engagement, with an emphasis on education, with stakeholders of all kinds, and consultation with Indigenous communities and self-governments, is paramount to establishing the trust, the understanding of risks and benefits, and ultimately the acceptance of this technology without which its success in Canada will not be possible, regardless of the opportunity or potential.

Acknowledging that remote regions – and the mining industry that operates there – have been identified as a strategic stakeholder by the Government of Canada in the development and potential deployment of SMRs, it corresponds that the level of commitment and engagement required to meaningfully consult with communities in remote provincial regions and northern Canada must be accounted for, and the appropriate capacity allocated to deliver on this critical requirement.

As such, we respectfully recommend that the government of Canada allocate in Budget 2021 sufficient funds to develop and carry out a 5-year communications, outreach, engagement and consultation plan to better position Canada for success on this file, including in the remote regions of provinces and northern Canada. Further, the

organizations co-signing this letter request the opportunity to work with federal decision makers on the development of this plan to ensure it is representative of and informed by our respective areas of expertise.

While tremendous work has been done to date, the substantial and meaningful engagement of a broader set of stakeholders must begin now lest the technology readiness outpace its broader acceptance by Canadians.

Minister, we are committed to supporting the transition to a lower carbon future and to being a constructive partner to the Government of Canada in addressing climate change. Further, we were pleased to see both you and Minister Bains recognize the criticality of the expansion of nuclear power through SMRs to Canada's plans to achieve carbon net-neutrality by 2050 in your recent announcement. Thank you for your continued leadership on this important file, and we welcome the opportunity to dialogue with you and your officials on this proposal going forward.

Sincerely,



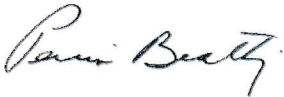
Pierre Gratton
President and CEO
Mining Association of Canada



Tabatha Bull
President and CEO
Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business



John Gorman
President and CEO
Canadian Nuclear Association



Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C.
President and CEO
Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Chris Hodgson
President
Ontario Mining Association



Pam Schwann
President
Saskatchewan Mining Association



Ken Hartwick
President & CEO
Ontario Power Generation



Robby Sohi
President and CEO
Global First Power



Bruce Wallace
President
Nuclear Innovation Institute



Nadine Barber
Interim Executive Director
Alberta Chamber of Resources



Eddie Saab
President
Westinghouse Electric Canada

CC:

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Honourable Naveed Bains, P.C, M.P., Minister of Industry, Science and Industry
The Honourable Dan Vandal, P.C., M.P., Minister of Northern Affairs