

Honorable Margaret McCuaig-Boyd
Minister of Energy
Office of the Minister
324 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

September 14, 2017

Dear Minister McCuaig-Boyd,

As Alberta pursues an ambitious program to transition Alberta's energy market from an Energy Only Market to a Capacity Market, with the goal of achieving a benchmark of 30% renewable energy generation by 2030, one of the chief obstacles that will be faced is encouraging the kind of growth and diversification of generation required in the face of a historically low market price of electricity. This challenging price market has made it difficult for small-scale renewable energy projects to enter the market and contribute to the Province's energy goals - a hurdle that must be overcome in order to achieve the 'Thirty by 30' goal.

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce believes that there is a unique opportunity for the Government of Alberta to channel current public investments into creating a program that will encourage investment in small-scale renewable energy projects. We have included our attached policy on Small-Scale Renewable Energy generation for your consideration. This policy calls for the investment of funds from the Climate Leadership Plan into the creation of a program or carve-out for small scale renewable electricity generators (0.1MW - 5MW). This program would enable investments that would not otherwise be possible, helping to invigorate investment into the sector in spite of depressed prices. Growth within the carve out would help the Government achieve their targets while also spurring local investments and job growth, while growing the diversity and resilience of the provincial energy grid.

Our Chamber recognizes the need for Alberta to transition away from reliance on traditional non-renewable energy sources and approves of the Government's desire to diversify energy investments into new and innovative sectors. We believe that the recommendations within this policy, if accepted, will help towards that end.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the recommendations contained in this policy further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Miller
President and Chair of the Board
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

cc. Hon. Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, Minister of Energy
Ms. Coleen Volk, Deputy Minister of Energy
Hon. Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks
Mr. Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks
Hon. Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Mr. Jason Krips, Deputy Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
Ms. Rachael Harder, Member of Parliament for Lethbridge
Ms. Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA Lethbridge – East
Hon. Chris Spearman, Mayor of Lethbridge
Mr. Trevor Lewington, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Lethbridge
Local and National Media Partners

Enclosure:

Small Scale Renewable Energy