



SEP - 6 2019

Mr. James B. Kerr
jbkerrx@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kerr:

On behalf of the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your email message of March 20, 2019, concerning the shipping of American coal overseas from Roberts Bank, British Columbia. Your Member of Parliament, Mr. Alistair MacGregor, wrote to the Minister on your behalf about this issue, and I regret the delay in replying.

Phasing out coal-fired electricity is indeed one of the most significant actions that the Government of Canada can take to address climate change. Repeated analyses show that coal-fired electricity must be phased out by 2030 in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and globally by 2050, in order to meet the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report *Global Warming of 1.5°C* further reinforces this urgent need, and states that emissions from coal must be reduced by two thirds in 2030 and be close to zero by 2050 to help avoid catastrophic climate change.

In recognition of this fact, Canada is working to accelerate the phase-out of unabated coal-fired electricity, both at home and abroad. New federal regulations announced in December 2018 will phase out traditional coal-fired power plants in Canada by 2030. These efforts are part of this country's broader climate action initiatives outlined in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which allow provinces (including British Columbia) the flexibility to design their own policies and programs to meet climate targets.

As noted in your correspondence, Canada is a co-founder and a co-chair of the Powering Past Coal Alliance. As of July 2019, 83 governments, businesses and organizations have joined the Alliance. The members commit to phasing out existing unabated coal-fired electricity (i.e. without operational carbon capture and storage), placing a moratorium on any new coal power stations within their jurisdictions, and restricting financing for unabated coal power generation. The scope of the Alliance's declaration does not encompass coal mining or transport, but rather focuses on curtailing the use of coal for power generation as this

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presents the most tangible link to emissions reductions. Although the Powering Past Coal Alliance cannot directly address the question of shipping U.S. coal through Canadian ports, it is actively engaging with U.S. states to encourage them to phase out thermal coal.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance is a voluntary initiative, focused on celebrating achievements and driving global ambition. As a co-chair, Canada is working with members of the Alliance to share real-world examples and best practices in the transition to clean energy in order to help tackle climate change, reduce air pollution, and protect human health.

The Alliance has launched a series of taskforces in recent months, including on utilities and just transition, to develop best practices for the phase-out of coal. In addition, it has recently published a set of finance principles to outline the ways in which financial institutions can support energy transition and coal phase-out. To learn more about the Alliance's work, I invite you to visit www.poweringpastcoal.org.

Environment and Climate Change Canada values your thoughtful comments on this issue, and your previous work as a senior research scientist in the Department. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iwan Chan', with a horizontal line underneath.

Iwan Chan
Director General
Corporate Secretariat

c.c.: Office of Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.