

Dear Ambassadors and European decision makers,

The undersigned, a wide range of Canadian civil society groups, are writing to ask you to support the European Commission's proposal on the implementation of the European Union's Fuel Quality Directive.

We understand that the EU Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) is an important policy aimed at reducing emissions in Europe's transportation sector. The Commission's proposal rightly distinguishes unconventional fuels produced from coal, natural gas, oil shale and bitumen (or tar sands). These fuels typically have, on average, higher carbon footprints than conventional fuels.

We also understand that our federal government, joined by the Albertan government and industries active in the Canadian tar sands, have been lobbying against assigning bitumen a separate value. This lobbying has included: private meetings; open letters; public advertisements; being the only non-European country to participate in the FQD consultation; and threats that the proposal will be seen as a barrier to trade.¹

The FQD does not unduly target the Canadian tar sands. Not only are other high carbon fuels (including other potential producers of bitumen) assigned a value, the proposal allows suppliers to prove that their specific extraction or production method has lower emissions than a default value. This policy also provides important incentives for industry to clean up their production processes by including this provision to apply for a project-specific value. A recent assessment of 13 scientific studies found tar sands fuels to be 18 to 49 per cent more GHG intensive than conventional oil consumed in the EU.² The independent, peer-reviewed study financed by the European Commission is consistent with these findings.³

Further, while the CETA negotiations have been a venue for this lobbying, trade agreements and rules should not be allowed to override social and environmental priorities.

We are collectively faced with a climate crisis that requires urgent action. Policies that discourage the use of high carbon fuels play an important role in reducing emissions alongside other measures such as increasing the efficient use of energy, renewable energy expansion and public transportation. The Canadian government has fallen far behind the EU and many other countries in this regard.

Rather than lobby to weaken the efforts of other countries, the Canadian government should focus on efforts that reduce emissions, support green jobs expansion and better regulate the serious social and environmental consequences of tar sands development. We are actively working in Canada to encourage these actions.

On behalf of millions of Canadians, please put our collective need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions ahead of narrow commercial interests and advance the European Commission's EU FQD proposal.



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Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.



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Communications, Energy and
Paperworkers Union of Canada



COMMON FRONTIERS



SIERRA
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Public Interest Alberta

Creating the Political Will
for a Sustainable Climate

CITIZENS
CLIMATE
LOBBY

<http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org>
<http://www.citizensclimatelobby.ca>

CAW TCA
CANADA

www.caw.ca

TCC

Toronto Climate Campaign

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ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE DE LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION ATMOSPHÉRIQUE

cupw sttp



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

Climate Action Network Canada Réseau action climat Canada

national union
of public and general employees

Alternatives
La solidarité en action



post carbon institute

BC Sustainable Energy
ASSOCIATION

Vegans & Vegetarians of Alberta

GREENPEACE

The Edmonton Friends of the
North Environmental Society

FOREST ETHICS



Alberta Wilderness Association

¹ *The Tar Sands Long Shadow*, Climate Action Network Canada, <<http://www.climateaction.ca/issues/getting-off-fossil-fuels/tar-sands/report/>>

Andy Rowell, Derek Urbaniak and Paul de Clerck, *Canada's Dirty Lobby Diary: Undermining the EU Fuel Quality Directive*, Friends of the Earth Europe, July 2011,

<http://www.foeeurope.org/publications/2011/FOEE_Report_Tar_Sands_Lobby_Final_July82011.pdf>

² GHG Emission Factors for High Carbon Intensity Crude Oils, NRDC, 2010,

<http://docs.nrdc.org/energy/ene_10070101.asp>

³ The Study financed by the European Commission, written by Stanford University Professor A. Brandt, found that tar sands are 23% more GHG intensive than the average for conventional crude currently used in the EU.