

July 6, 2010

Hon. James Prentice  
Minister of Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Minister Prentice:

Our federation of 124 chambers of commerce in Alberta recently held our annual provincial conference, which included a policy session that saw delegates approve 30 new policies. Four of these policies directly relate to your department. They are the following:

*Zero waste* – This policy seeks to encourage “zero waste” practices in the business realm. The government’s role would involve promoting resource recovery by setting new targets for recycling and composting. We would also like to see a shift from the priority on the technology of disposal to people-centred recovery.

*Regulatory approval for soil and water technologies* – This policy seeks the alignment of municipal, provincial and federal environmental regulatory systems, while also ensuring all regulations are fair and realistic.

*Pine beetle management in Alberta* – This policy was first developed in 2007 and was renewed in May because the destructive insects are continuing to march eastward, threatening pine forests throughout Canada. Our federation believes more comprehensive steps need to be taken by both the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to address the infestation and assist the forestry industry in dealing with the reality of the pine beetle’s devastation.

Our federation would appreciate learning the Government of Canada’s position on our newest environmental policies, which are enclosed in this correspondence.

We look forward to hearing from you,



Kay Olsen, MA  
Chair



Ken Kobly, FCGA  
President and CEO

Enclosures