

February 26th, 2024

To:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada  
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources Canada

CC:

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, M.P, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons  
The Honourable Andrew Scheer, M.P, House leader of the official opposition  
Peter Julian, M.P, House leader of the New Democratic Party  
Alain Therrien, M.P, House leader of the Bloc Québécois

**Subject: Request for the Swift Passage of Bill C-50, the Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act.**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Wilkinson,

The undersigned labour and environmental organizations write to express our support for Bill C-50, the *Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act*, and to respectfully request your government continue to work with Members of Parliament to ensure a swift progression of this critical legislation through the House of Commons.

The worsening climate crisis requires accelerated action to reduce emissions and transition away from fossil fuels, all while ensuring the well-being of workers, communities, and Indigenous peoples who are integral to this transformative process. Bill C-50 provides an important opportunity to align Canada's approach to workforce, regional, and economic development with our climate goals.

We are particularly pleased to see that the legislation has evolved, through the Committee, into both climate and labour legislation. We appreciate that some of the Committee's amendments align Bill C-50 with Canada's climate goals, improve transparency and accountability, and better orientate the Partnership Council's composition to ensure labour, Indigenous and environmental groups are represented.

For workers, this bill represents a seat at the table, and a commitment to ensuring that a sustainable economy is built on good, union jobs that have the paycheques and benefits that can support workers and their families and can anchor communities across the country. This bill gives workers a say in their future, so we protect good jobs by decarbonizing our economy, and when Canada is creating new, low-carbon jobs, that those jobs are the kind of good jobs that pay the bills.

However, we are concerned about the changes made to the timeline for the Action Plan. We support the proposed Report Stage amendments that would re-instate the original "2025" deadline for the first Action Plan, and change reporting dates accordingly.

It will be essential to implement mechanisms following the passage of the Act that advance equity, such as those that encourage local and regional transition planning, include affected workers in developing programs, raise health and safety and labour standards, and ensure the participation of Indigenous rights-holders in the shift to a net-zero economy in a manner consistent with Indigenous peoples' inherent, treaty and constitutional rights. We urge your government to commit to establishing these mechanisms, if not in Bill C-50, through other avenues in a timely manner.

With Bill C-50 having reached this important stage in the legislative process, we urge you to expedite its final improvements and passage through the House of Commons. Moving the legislation quickly through the parliamentary process will allow the Secretariat and the Partnership Council to get to work on the next Action Plan with sufficient time to adequately consult impacted parties and experts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to witnessing the continued progress of the *Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act*.

Sincerely,

Blue Green Canada  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
Canadian Labour Congress  
Climate Action Network - Réseau Action Climat  
Council of Canadians  
David Suzuki Foundation  
Ecojustice  
Environmental Defence  
Équiterre  
Iron and Earth  
Pembina Institute  
350 Canada

