October 30, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca

Re: Strengthening Canadian Energy Security and East-West Market Access

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We, the undersigned chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada, are calling for practical federal action to strengthen Canada's energy security, economic resilience and ability to move Canadian energy efficiently within our own country.

Recent 2026 refinery applications have shown that suitable Canadian crude tankers are not always available when needed. In addition, Canada produces significant volumes of crude oil, yet there is currently no crude oil pipeline running entirely within Canada that connects Western Canadian production with Eastern Canadian refineries.

We ask you and your government to:

1. **Introduce amendments to the Coasting Trade Act to authorize the Canadian Transportation Agency to make time-limited shortage determinations where suitable Canadian crude-tanker capacity is demonstrably unavailable, while preserving priority for available Canadian vessels.**
2. **Refer an all-Canadian east-west crude transportation strategy to the Major Projects Office as a transformative strategy, directing the Major Projects Office to work with provinces, Indigenous governments and rights holders, industry and proponents to assess projects already underway, potential connections to Central and Atlantic refining markets, and the federal steps and timelines needed for commercially viable projects to proceed.**

The near-term challenge is marine capacity. Foreign vessels can already be licensed in those circumstances, but Canadian-vessel availability must be established through individual applications. A time-limited shortage determination would provide greater predictability where the same capacity gap has already been demonstrated, while preserving priority for Canadian vessels.

The longer-term challenge is infrastructure. New east-west proposals show that this is moving beyond a theoretical policy discussion, but route, ownership and financing decisions should remain subject to technical feasibility, commercial demand, Indigenous rights and participation, environmental and safety requirements, and project economics. The Major Projects Office is well suited to coordinate that work. Its transformative-strategy mandate is designed for early-stage opportunities involving growth, security and market diversification that require further development before individual projects can proceed.

Canadian refiners already source crude based on quality, price, availability and transportation costs. The objective is not to dictate where refineries purchase their feedstock or to eliminate imports. Rather, it is to ensure Canadian crude has a competitive and reliable domestic transportation option when refinery requirements and market conditions align.

This is about strengthening Canadian choice and resilience in our energy sector. A country with significant energy resources should have sufficient transportation options to serve domestic customers, respond to changing trade and infrastructure conditions, and compete for investment and market opportunities.

The benefits extend beyond energy production. Major infrastructure can support construction, manufacturing, transportation, engineering and professional services, strengthen Canadian supply chains and create opportunities for Indigenous equity ownership, procurement and employment where communities choose to participate. Those opportunities should be pursued alongside rigorous environmental and safety standards, meaningful consultation, respect for Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and sound commercial discipline.

Making better use of Canadian transportation options today, while creating a clear pathway for commercially viable east-west infrastructure to move from concept to decision, would strengthen Canada's energy security, economic resilience and competitiveness. It would also give businesses and communities across the country greater confidence that nationally significant infrastructure can advance through a clear and predictable process.

Sincerely,

The undersigned chambers of commerce and boards of trade

Airdrie Regional Chamber of Commerce
Alberta Chambers of Commerce
Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
Bonnyville & District Chamber of Commerce
Camrose Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton
Cochrane & District Chamber of Commerce
Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce
Edson and District Chamber of Commerce
Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce
Fort Saskatchewan & Lamont County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce
Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce
High River Chamber of Commerce
Kensington & Area Chamber of Commerce
Leduc, Nisku & Wetaskiwin Chamber
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce
Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce
Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce
Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce
Olds & District Chamber of Commerce
Peace River and District Chamber of Commerce
Prince Albert & District Chamber of Commerce
Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce
Rocky Mountain House and District Chamber of Commerce
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce
Swan Hills Chamber of Commerce
Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce
Weyburn Chamber of Commerce
Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce
Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce

Please direct correspondence regarding this letter to:

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cc: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy iga.minister-ministre.aig@pco-bcp.gc.ca

The Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources HonTim.Hodgson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Dawn Farrell, Chief Executive Officer, Major Projects Office info@mpo-bgp.gc.ca