

April 25, 2017

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Co-Chairs, Alberta Energy Diversification Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA EMAIL

Email to: energy.diversification@gov.ab.ca

Subject: Public Submission on A Diversified Energy Sector

Committee Members:

As you may know, Sturgeon County spans more than 2,300 square kilometers and is located close to several large urban centres within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. With Alberta's Industrial Heartland and diverse rural and urban economies, we are seeing an unmatched opportunity for investment and growth that could result in thousands of new jobs and billions in GDP. Industrial value-added development contributes to the sustainability of our community, and Alberta. From this perspective, we are pleased to offer some initial thoughts on Sturgeon County Council's vision for a diversified energy sector, and the role of government in encouraging additional value-added processing in Alberta.

Sturgeon County is committed to working collaboratively with government and industry on projects that are not only important to our municipality, but to the Province of Alberta and to Canada. The Petrochemical Diversification Program (PDP) administered by the Government of Alberta, has garnered successful results, generating petrochemical interest in Alberta. We appreciate the Government's decision to recently commit \$500 million in royalty credits to the program, which will contribute to the creation of more than 4,000 jobs in Alberta. Pembina Pipeline and Petrochemical Industries Company K.S.C.'s combined propane dehydrogenation and polypropylene upgrading facility within Sturgeon County will be a direct beneficiary of this commitment. As a founding member of Alberta's Industrial Heartland, we are extremely pleased to see these projects move forward, thanks to private and public sector collaboration. When these types of projects move ahead, they contribute to long-term sustainability through the creation of jobs but also provide direct investments into local communities through corporate sponsorship (i.e. community initiatives and facilities); this helps to maintain and grow complete communities across Alberta.

When we maximize the value of our products right here in Alberta, we are creating a more diverse and resilient economy, which ensures Alberta's many communities and families can continue to prosper into the future. Continued public investment through programs like the PDP, and sustained private-public collaboration will ensure that Alberta remains an attractive area for new businesses, and that we continue to work towards diversification. This is true whether it is the agricultural, petrochemical, manufacturing, or any other sector of Alberta's economy.

Further to this, industrial clustering is an excellent way to promote competitiveness and build value-add opportunities. In order to achieve the right conditions for this occur, government incentives are needed to be competitive—be it policies or programs or infrastructure investments. As an example, continued

improvements to roads, bridges and intersections within Alberta's Industrial Heartland is needed—the recent announcement to twin Highway 15 will contribute to the safe transportation of people and goods in addition to attracting value-added growth.

There is an excellent opportunity right now to continue the work that has started. Continued support in Alberta's Industrial Heartland, namely with the approval of Phase 2 of the Northwest Redwater Partnership's Sturgeon Refinery will promote good paying jobs in the energy sector while providing low-carbon, high-value products. Sturgeon County Council would suggest that the Energy Diversification Advisory Committee recommend this opportunity for approval to Government, as an additional step they can take to build a more diversified and resilient economy.

On behalf of Sturgeon County Council, I wish the Committee success in its work and engagement with the public on this critical topic. Should you wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to get in touch.

Best Regards,

Tom Flynn – Mayor
Sturgeon County

cc.

The Honourable Marg McCuaig-Boyd
The Honourable Deron Bilous
Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater
Mr. Trevor Horne, MLA for Spruce Grove-St. Albert
Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock
Councillor Ed Gibbons, Chair, Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
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