



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



December 16, 2009

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier
Government of British Columbia
P.O. Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E1
premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Campbell:

We are writing to share two significant concerns our organizations have with respect to the transparency of the Green Energy Advisory Task Force process. These concerns are based on information provided at the December 9th meeting of the quarterly Provincial Forum for non-governmental organizations, hosted by the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources.

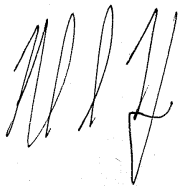
We note that the lack of transparency around planning for green energy has been identified by many as one of the key issues hindering the responsible development of green energy in BC. While we support the government's objective of improving the way in which clean energy projects are developed, we believe that a lack of transparency in the Green Energy Advisory Task Force process will undermine public support for any final recommendations, and may set back progress in this important policy area.

First, we are concerned that there is no plan to publicly release the recommendations of the Task Forces. According to information provided to us at the Forum, these Task Force recommendations are to be submitted to the BC government directly in secret. Given the significant public concern on this issue, we believe that it is critical that the expert deliberations and recommendations of this committee be made public. This was the approach taken by the Climate Action Team's work, whose recommendations were shared publicly and we are requesting that the Green Energy Advisory Task Forces recommendations also be made public when they are presented to the government.

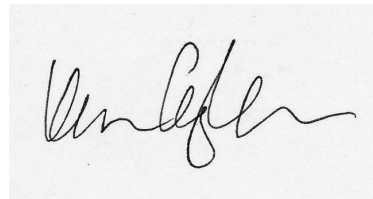
Second, we are concerned that submissions to the task force can be made in confidence and not shared publicly, despite the creation of a website designed expressly to share input on this important issue. We can see no justification for making policy recommendations to government secret. That said, we do acknowledge that any proprietary information provided to the Task Force would warrant confidentiality. However, that privilege should be extended only to the specific text or figures within a submission that contains proprietary information. If this information has been redacted, we see no reason that the rest of the submission, or, at a bare minimum, the name of the organization or individual making the submission cannot be made public.

Given the critical importance and keen public interest in the work of the task forces, these shortcomings need to be remedied immediately, and we urge you to address these concerns before the end of 2009. All British Columbians will benefit from a more fulsome understanding of the many perspectives on this important issue. The transparency of the Advisory Task Force process is a paramount consideration.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Heap
Climate and Energy Policy Analyst
David Suzuki Foundation
#219-2211 W. 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6K 4S2



Karen Campbell
Staff Council and Director, Strategy
Pembina Institute
Suite 606, 55 Water Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7

Cc:

Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Keith Jardine, Deputy Cabinet Secretary