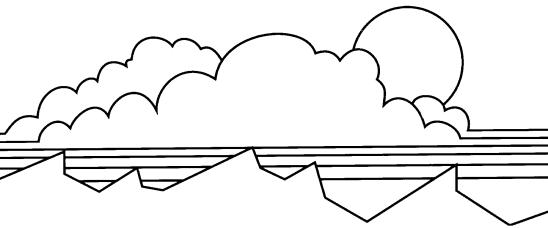


ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE



November 22, 2007

Our File: P-99-881

Honourable Ed Stelmach
Office of the Premier
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Stelmach:

RE: Bill 46 – Alberta Utilities Commission Act

The Environmental Law Centre (ELC) is a charitable organization, incorporated in 1982 to provide an objective source of information on environmental law and policy in Alberta and Canada. Our mission is to ensure that laws, policies and legal processes protect the environment. One of the ELC's specific goals is to ensure that people are actively engaged in decisions to protect the environment. With that specific goal in mind, we provided comments to the Honourable Mel Knight in July 2007 on Bill 46, the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act (AUCA)*. A copy of those comments is attached for your reference.

In our role as a source of information on environmental law and policy, we have been contacted by many Albertans about Bill 46. While advising them of the specific scope and application of Bill 46, we have noted that many have much broader concerns regarding the limits on public participation and engagement in regulatory decision-making processes in Alberta. We have shared these concerns about participation limitations for many years, as discussed more fully in our letter to Minister Knight.

Given the broad-ranging concerns of Albertans that have been sparked by the introduction of Bill 46, we strongly suggest that your government refer Bill 46 for public review and hearings by the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment. Such a step would facilitate a full and open examination of Albertans' views and expectations regarding regulatory processes of the proposed Alberta Utilities Commission and Energy Resources Conservation Board, and would be a strong step towards restoring Albertans' faith in those regulatory bodies and processes.

We look forward to monitoring progress of the Bill and to providing comments on any amendments that may be proposed as it proceeds through the Legislature. We would be

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pleased to discuss our comments further with you, Minister Knight or your staff members.

Yours truly,

Cindy Chiasson
Executive Director

Encl.

cc Kevin Taft, Leader, Official Opposition
Brian Mason, Leader, New Democrat Party

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