



Brenda Kenny perspectives on Canadian Energy Strategy

Over the past month we've all seen lots of news coverage on the pros and cons of a National Energy Strategy. Discussions on the need for better strategy and alignment have been underway for years. In fact, as one of the four associations leading the Energy Framework Initiative (EFI), we presented a call for a pan-Canadian strategy to Ministers in 2009, and a broader industry group, the Energy Policy Institute of Canada (EPIC) followed up in a similar vein in 2010. The focal point recently was the 2011 Energy and Mines Ministers' meeting in Kananaskis July 18th where they considered views from think tanks, industry and environmentalists, and arrived at a commitment to collaborate on regulatory reform, energy efficiency, information and awareness, and markets and trade.

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In my view, that 2011 meeting was an important step in a time of challenge and opportunity. Pipeline interests are simple. In order to sustain and grow our economy, and to meet our role of delivering safe and reliable energy to millions of people, we need timely decisions on new projects and good regulation on operating pipelines. As CEPA said to Energy and Mines Ministers leading into the Kananaskis meeting, "Transmission pipelines are critical energy infrastructure that connects energy producing regions to consuming markets. In an increasingly competitive global market to access energy resources, it is incumbent upon Canada, which is blessed with natural resources, to develop a framework that would allow Canadian energy companies and resources to remain competitive in the global market place."

CEPA's support for a national energy strategy is based on the fundamental belief that Canada should view all of its energy resources as a strategic asset. That means getting the best possible value in the market for the benefit of Canada and her Provinces, recognizing that Canada is a trading nation with unique regional interests and sensibilities; and that trade generates the wealth that supports Canadians' quality of life and social infrastructure. We also see the strategy positioning innovation, regulation, GHG emission reduction and energy efficiency as key components of Canadian excellence.

It is broadly accepted now that energy, environment and economy are inexorably linked. Our ability to remain competitive, and to take into account core environmental and social values, is a key responsibility to current and future generations of Canadians.

Across a patchwork of jurisdictions and constitutional rights, we must find better ways to move forward. A strategy does not mean a detailed, fully unified plan. A collaborative approach to energy across Canada does mean the intention to get the best possible

outcomes, the means to boost critical pieces like innovation and information, and the ability to make balanced decisions in a timely manner and avoid paralysis. Canada can be positioned for success, pipelines play a central role in that, and action on priorities within a National Energy Strategy will help.



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