May 1, 2018

Mr. Mark Gerretsen, M.P.

841 Princess Street

Kingston, Ontario

K7L 1G7

Dear Mr. Gerretsen,

I am writing concerning the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. I would like to express my deepest opposition to the project and the proposed use of public funds for the Liberal party bailout of the troubled pipeline and tanker plan.

A Kinder Morgan bailout is a reckless use of tax payer dollars. Dozens of First Nations still don’t have clean drinking water. We’re facing a housing crisis. Renewable energy projects are desperate for more funding. We must prioritize funding the future we want, not getting stuck in the past and supporting dirty fossil fuel habits.

Your government was elected based on the promises of true reconciliation with Indigenous communities and action on climate change. Not only does support for the Kinder Morgan pipeline run contrary to these goals, but it makes those problems much worse than when you took office. Further, a federal government bailout of the project is a risky investment.

* Kinder Morgan has not yet received final permission from the National Energy Board.
* One-third of the route details have not been approved, and Kinder Morgan has formally asked the National Energy Board to delay all future route hearings, meaning final approval will not come until at least 2019.
* Of the 157 required National Energy Board conditions, the company has ticked only half the boxes, not even filed paperwork for 50, and been rejected by the NEB on some of its efforts, including those pertaining to caribou habitat restoration.
* At the provincial level, Kinder Morgan requires 1,187 permits from the B.C. government, yet the company has not even filed paperwork for 600 outstanding permissions.

Kinder Morgan would directly result in expansion of the Alberta tar sands, further setting us back on our climate commitments. A company called Teck Resources has filed for the largest-ever open pit tar sands mine in northern Alberta. The $20-billion Teck Frontier Mine would rip up huge swaths of pristine Boreal forest, destroy critical wildlife habitat, violate the rights of local First Nations, unleash a flood of global warming pollution, and pollute sensitive watersheds that flow into Canada’s largest World Heritage Park. Teck Resources has signed contracts to ship oil through Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain pipeline. Their open pit mine is driving the business case for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

The proposed pipeline would be 36 inches in diameter, large enough for a small child to walk through standing up. The proposed product to be shipped in the pipeline – diluted bitumen – is incredibly difficult to clean up when spilled on land and near impossible to clean up when spilled in water. Kinder Morgan plans to export the oil via tankers off the west coast. The expansion would significantly increase oil tanker traffic through Vancouver harbour and the Salish Sea from just 22 visits in 2005 to over 400. A spill would devastate British Columbia’s tourism and fishing industries and eliminate a way of life for several Indigenous communities.

Please respond with answers to these key questions:

* What is your position on climate change?
* Do you believe we can continue to expand the tar sands while also leading the world to a zero-carbon economy?
* What are you doing to ensure we meet our Paris Agreement goal of keeping global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while aiming to limit that increase to 1.5°C?
* Are you acting in a way that will leave a hospitable planet to our children and future generations?

As one of your constituents, I ask that you to immediately notify Prime Minister Trudeau and your Liberal colleagues that Kingston is paying attention to the federal governments’ roll in the fate of this pipeline.

**We urge you to reject the Kinder Morgan bailout.**

We demand real action on climate change and will remember the decisions made by your government when we head to the polls in 2019.

Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

Kingston, ON

Postal Code