

August 19, 2020

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200, Sacré-Coeur Blvd, 2nd Floor  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

**Re: Request for extension of Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project federal decision deadline**

As we continue our work to advance the Robert Bank Terminal 2 Project, we have realized that it would be helpful to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and Indigenous groups—and could be to government—to seek an extension to the timeframe for a federal decision on the project.

This request is based on:

- The challenges created by COVID-19, across all work and engagement
- The need for ongoing adaptation with consideration of impacts of COVID-19 to support collaboration, consultation and work with Indigenous groups
- Our interest in continuing to refine the project in consideration of the recommendations of the review panel, including additional mitigations, offsets and avoidance measures that could reduce or eliminate significant adverse environmental effects
- An understanding that government is seeking additional information from the port authority in relation to potential project effects on fish and fish habitat and southern resident killer whales, which may produce information that you might find useful to your decision

Further, we are hearing from some Indigenous groups that they need more time to support their meaningful participation and their own internal community processes, and we want to support these requests. We remain committed to working with Indigenous groups with an approach based on respect for and full acknowledgement of treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests within the area of the project.

Regarding our ongoing work, since the independent review panel completed its public hearings and closed the record in August 2019, the port authority has continued to refine our technical analysis and offsetting and mitigation plans, based on consultation with Indigenous groups, agencies and the panel report findings and recommendations. In particular, we are currently working on, among other things:

- More detailed fish and fish habitat offsetting plans, including technical feasibility of those plans and development of more refined and additional offsetting plans to address salmon habitat loss
- Additional mitigation measures and plans for construction and operations as they relate to southern resident killer whales
- Updated economic analysis
- Focused consultation with Indigenous groups on outstanding issues and approaches to mitigation

While we are conscious of the fact that a delay could have some implications for the project commencement date should all approvals be obtained, we believe that such implications would be manageable, and it is preferable to take the time necessary to support the above noted activities.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority  
Request for extension of RBT2 Project federal decision deadline

We remain confident that the project is in Canada's national interest and is designed to meet long-term trade demands well beyond the mid- to late-2030s, making it an important generational project. We are committed to doing what we can to make sure the project is built in time to support Canadian importers and exporters who rely on the Port of Vancouver to get their goods to and from Asian markets, while also balancing the importance of protecting the local environment.

We believe the information as outlined above can be provided in sufficient time for a decision by government in advance of the summer recess.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

<Original signed by>

Duncan Wilson  
Vice President, Environment, Community and Government Affairs

cc The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, MP Delta  
The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Robin Silvester, President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority  
Cliff Stewart, Vice President, Infrastructure, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority