Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

March 20, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing today to urge you to support Bill C-69 and to ensure its adoption in the current Parliamentary session.

Bill C-69 is an important step forward to balance economic ambitions with environmental and gender equality goals. The bill’s inclusion of an intersectional gender-based analysis will go a long way to ensuring that Canadians in all their diversity benefit equally from development projects rather than some groups suffering disproportionate harm.

Bill C-69 has been shaped by more than two years of consultations with the Canadian public, industry, Indigenous peoples and scientists. It challenges decision-makers to take into account the impacts of resource development projects on a diverse range of people, especially women. It also ensures that the protection of human rights is a key consideration in the project assessment process. Current federal impact assessment legislation does not include explicit reference to rights protections – this is a major oversight.

A revamped assessment process would bring to light the systemic discrimination that women often face in all phases of resource development projects. For example, in the extractive industries, jobs and other economic benefits tend to go to men, while unintended social impacts, such as increased cost of living and a rise in sexual violence, disproportionately harm women living in poverty. The passage of Bill C-69 will transform the currently outdated federal impact assessment process for the better, particularly because it mandates an intersectional gender-based analysis to be included for the first time in Canadian history.
Bill C-69 will help protect our economy and communities for generations to come. It will help usher in a new era in which decision making around resource development is informed by a gender-based analysis and the responsibility to protect human rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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