Dear Honourable Senators – Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources:

Bill C-69 is a marked improvement over the status quo ante in environmental legislation. The government created it in consultation with sectors including industry, municipalities, members of the public, and Indigenous groups (especially through the work of the Expert Panel), thus doing its job and upholding democracy. I applaud it for recognizing that the definition of sustainability has evolved to comprise environmental, economic, social, and health effects. It would give the deserved equal scrutiny to all the environmental, economic, social, and health effects of more industrial projects than before. The environment, of course, is the foundation upon which all the others rely: long-term environmental and community needs supersede short-term industry needs.

I find that opponents of Bill C-69 have promulgated disinformation regarding its effects and intentions. When they say it will impair employment and economic growth, they are wrong. The oil-and-gas sector employs less than 0.5 people per million dollars of capital invested, by far the lowest ratio among the largest sectors of Canada’s economy and all renewable-energy-generating enterprises in the country employed more people than that sector did by the end of 2014. The $3.3 billion per year Canada provides in subsidies to the oil-and-gas industry and the government’s systemic failure to make this information available to the public are bad for our economy and democracy respectively. The money could be spent on improving projects that can and should last longer. It is also crucial that Canadian taxpayers know how their money is spent. I am a millennial and I want my country to be ready to invest in a clean, prosperous future that Bill C-69 encourages Canada to commit to its Paris Agreement greenhouse gas-reduction targets. They are a place to start, not to finish. If a project, especially a pipeline, is found to be less beneficial, more detrimental, or both to a community or the nation than its proponents claim, the Canada Energy Regulator should be allowed to deny the proposal for it. Do not weaken Bill C-69.

Yours sincerely,

Michael (Mike) Bagamery
Winnipeg, Man.