

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 20, 2009

RESOLUTION RE: BILL C-311, AN ACT TO ENSURE CANADA ASSUMES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN PREVENTING DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE (THE "CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT")

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, organizations (see below) working on climate change in Canada are calling for the swift passage of the Bill C-311, entitled An Act to *ensure Canada assumes its responsibilities in preventing dangerous climate change* (the "Climate Change Accountability Act"), and

Whereas, this bill would set national greenhouse gas emission targets for Canada that align with scientific assessments of the emission reductions needed to have a chance of avoiding dangerous climate change, and would also require the federal government to take the necessary steps to ensure the targets are met, and

Whereas, this December countries will gather in Copenhagen for historic negotiations to finalize a global climate treaty that will apply after 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends, and

Whereas, the Climate Change Accountability Act would set national emission targets that represent Canada's fair share of this global effort to prevent dangerous climate change, and

Whereas, a decision by Canada's Parliament to adopt these targets would send a strong signal to the world that Canada intends to do its part in tackling global warming and protecting the most vulnerable people from its devastating consequences, and

Whereas, economic analysis produced by M.K. Jaccard and Associates, a prominent Canadian modelling firm, shows that Canada can reach a science-based emissions target in 2020 while growing its economy by 2% per year and creating over one million net new jobs, and

Whereas, it is also notable that the 2050 target in the Climate Change Accountability Act is identical to President Barack Obama's 2050 target for U.S. emissions.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the City of Vaughan calls on all parties in Canada's Parliament to work together and pass this essential piece of legislation before the summer recess, while this timeline is ambitious, global warming is urgent. In addition, we note that the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development gave this bill extensive consideration at committee stage last year. Since then, neither the bill itself nor the science underlying it has changed --- although the passage of time has made it even more urgent, and because

Canadians want to see our country play a leadership role this year in Copenhagen, and they care deeply about protecting our natural heritage. The Climate Change Accountability is an essential step towards those goals.

Organizations calling for the passage of Bill C-311:

Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (AQLPA)

BC Sustainable Energy Association

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Canadian Youth Climate Coalition

Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario

Clean North

Clean Nova Scotia
Climate Action Network Canada – Réseau Action Climat Canada
Coalition QuébecKyoto
Conservation Council of New Brunswick
The David Suzuki Foundation
Ecology Action Centre
Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society
Environmental Defence
Équiterre
ForestEthics
Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW)
Friends of the Earth Canada
Greenpeace
Greenspiration
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
The National Union of Public and General Employees
Nature Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
The Pembina Institute
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Sierra Club Canada
Toronto West CRAG
Vegetarians of Alberta Association
Voters Taking Action on Climate Change
The World Federalist Movement – Canada
WWF - Canada

Economic Impact

Nil

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department will issue a media release upon this recommendation.

Purpose

To communicate Council's support of an international initiative to prevent climate change.

Background - Analysis and Options

Over thirty Canadian agencies concerned about the effects of climate change are seeking support from jurisdictions across Canada for Bill C-311, "The Climate Change Accountability Act", in the lead up to the international conference on climate change to be held in December 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

Climate change will impact all jurisdictions.

Conclusion

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella