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OTTAWA
8 March 2022

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Russian commodity imports

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

Canada has a critical role to play in decarbonizing the energy production for the benefit of the planet while also reducing the support received by Putin's regime in the Russian Federation. I raised this point with you on a couple of occasions last week, both in the House of Commons and at the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

When you were at committee, you indicated in your response to my question that:

"What I said in the House was that we have not imported crude oil from Russia since 2019. That is true. Subsequent to that, we have banned the import of Russian oil.

"We added to that the import of petroleum products that are derived, that are either partly or wholly refined, including things like lubricants and motor oils. We now have put into place, or are in the process of putting into place, a ban on those as well."

According to Statistics Canada, the amount Canada transferred to Russia in 2021 for Petroleum Products amounted to \$378 million – which is down from previous years. Nevertheless, it represents a disconnect in a world that needs to make stark choices with respect to energy security and environmental amelioration of our energy supply and consumption. I will pose to you that importing petroleum products from Russia advances neither of those objectives. Indeed, it sets the world back environmentally, and as we are witnessing with respect to global security – not just of energy, but of an invasion of the democratic nation of Ukraine by Russia. Europe is faced with the stark realisation that purchasing Russian natural resources is providing direct funding to the Putin war machine and they are seeking to move quickly to other reliable and environmentally-produced sources of energy.

I would simply ask you as a follow-up to our exchange last week on the 'oil' (petroleum products) imports that Canada receives from Russia: what is the date the final shipment of Russian petroleum products will arrive in Canada, and the final date on which Canada will abide payment from any entity for the purchase of Russian oil or petroleum products?

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Further Actions

It is obvious that we need to act more aggressively against Russia, and I am also asking you to have your government consider instituting a ban on all products supplied by Russia to Canada. Of course, this includes many natural resources.

One step further would put Canada in a better light internationally. Canada should work with trading partners and allies to sanction Russian products, and in particular, commodities.

We need to stop the flow of funds, internationally, from world economies to Russia. Reversing the funds flow, particularly for the commodities trade, will have a very quick and direct effect on the Russian war effort against Ukraine.

The short-term effect will be economically difficult and inflationary in many areas. Those effects pale in comparison to what the world is seeing Ukraine experience at the hands of Vladimir Putin. Canada can lead in the replacement of these supplies to world markets, and though we know supply will not be met instantly, we are taking a huge step forward.

The United States should be our first partner in addressing this displacement of Russian commodities. We have the ability to meet American commodity needs and displace Russian supply in the short term. I urge you to take this very important step as quickly as possible.

Choices need to be made, and actions need to be taken immediately.

If there is any way that I can help to move this matter forward, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Regards,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Greg McLean, M.P.
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CC: The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C, M.P.
Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic
Development