

Dear [MLA]:

Although there are some positive aspects to Bill 17, we are concerned about the negative implications of removing self-sufficiency from the Clean Energy Act.

We urge that Bill 17 be amended to remove the provision to repeal self-sufficiency from the Clean Energy Act.

Repealing self-sufficiency in Bill 17, would lead to more reliance by BC Hydro and Powerex on the spot market to meet BC's future electricity demand, exposing BC ratepayers to the uncertain supply and prices that led to the policy of self-sufficiency in the first place. Although there is currently availability and the price of excess electricity from the US is low, that could change with weather and drought conditions, or more wildfires. Further, the transmission system in the US is constrained.

In no industry does government argue for importing rather than generating goods and services right here in BC. BC should be fostering local renewable energy, encouraging investment in BC's economy, and the economic benefits that independent power projects deliver - not relying on more subsidized imports from the US.

Independent power projects offer much-needed investment in our economy, family-supporting jobs, business for local goods and services, taxes and fees, and a stream of revenue for communities and First Nations that own, invest or share in revenue from their operation. Renewable energy projects are viewed globally as a valuable part of a resilient and green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. At a time when we are preparing for economic recovery, energy investments should benefit British Columbians.

Sincerely,

cc.

Premier John Horgan
Minister Bruce Ralston, Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
Adam Olsen, Leader, BC Green Party
Greg Kylo, Energy Critic, Liberal Party of BC
Andrew Weaver, Independent MLA