

April 8th, 2021

By email

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

Gérard Deltell
House Leader of the Official Opposition

Alain Therrien
House Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Peter Julian
House Leader of the New Democratic Party

House of Commons
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Dear House Leaders,

There are currently several bills before the House of Commons that deserve your attention. The purpose of this letter is to bring your attention to Bill C-12, An Act respecting transparency and accountability in Canada's efforts to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.

In a context where Canada has missed every single climate target it has ever set, this bill, if strengthened, promises to hold the government accountable for achieving its international climate obligations, including Canada's 2030 pledge under the Paris Agreement and the goal to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in Canada by the year 2050. As stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in a recent ruling on the constitutionality of the federal carbon pricing system: "It is well established that climate change is causing significant environmental, economic and human harm nationally and internationally, with especially high impacts in the Canadian Arctic, coastal regions and on Indigenous peoples."

All parties in the House of Commons support the principle of a carbon-neutral Canada by mid-century, yet Canada is the only G7 nation whose emissions have continued to rise since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015. We must act decisively - now - to end Canada's disastrous track record of missed climate targets, and implement robust accountability mechanisms to meet our near- and long-term goals. That is why it is in Canada's interest that consideration of Bill C-12 in committee be prioritized.

As House Leaders, you have an important role to play in prioritizing legislation before Parliament and we believe strongly that you must prioritize tackling the climate crisis through climate accountability legislation before the next election.

We are asking for you to use cross-partisan negotiation and all parliamentary tools at your disposal to ensure that Bill C-12 is referred to the ENVI committee next week, the week of April 12, before the budget is tabled on April 19. Further scrutiny of and improvements to Bill C-12 are necessary, and can only occur once the Bill is referred to committee.

During the October 2019 general election, Canadians gave MPs a mandate to work together in a minority government, and 62% of those who voted cast their ballots for parties promising more ambitious action on climate change. We offer you our full cooperation to fulfil the mandate given to you by your constituents.

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