

April 16, 2020

Dr. Mike Mahon  
President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Lethbridge  
A762 University Hall, University of Lethbridge  
4401 University Drive  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 3M4

Dear President Mahon:

We are writing this letter today, as the Buffalo Project advisory board, to express our sincere concern over the actions of 21 professors at the University of Lethbridge who signed a letter asking our federal government NOT to provide financial assistance to our oil and natural gas industry during this COVID-19 crisis.

You can find the letter at: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/03/25/opinion/265-academics-trudeau-no-bail-out-oil-and-gas-response-covid-19>

Many Buffalo Project founders, University of Lethbridge alumnus and major funders of Alberta's universities, are rightly outraged.

The Buffalo Project supports academic freedom and the principles of free thought and uninhibited research. However, these signatories are not speaking from academic expertise but are parroting a popular ideology that opposes hydrocarbon extraction at any cost, human or economic.

It is also clear from the range of academic specialities represented, that many of the signatories are not experts in either energy markets, environment, nor economics.

Thus, these professors leveraging their positions at the University of Lethbridge, along with a Saudi Arabia/Russia price war and global pandemic, in an effort to divert support from our oil and gas sector, is incomprehensible.

Our oil and gas sector is Canada's largest industry representing 10% of Canada's GDP and approximately 500,000 jobs for Canadian families. It has supported Alberta families and universities with tax revenues, jobs and world-class research for decades.

Furthermore, oil and gas is fundamental to the fight against COVID-19. While heating our homes, we need oil and gas to transport goods and medical supplies. In fact, many of our lifesaving essential medical equipment is derived from oil and gas. We would lose the fight against COVID-19 without MRIs, IV bags and tubes, medical shields, gloves, antiseptics and hundreds of other medical supplies and products.

Another important fact is that many forecasts show global demand for oil will increase for at least the next 30 years. The world needs a supplier of that resource – and we have the third largest oil reserves on the planet and produce it in perhaps the most responsible way on earth.

Albertans should meet that energy demand, including many of your current and future graduates.

But now the sector needs our support more than ever. Not professors leveraging their titles and institutional reputation to seek its demise.

Our board would like to formally request a public statement from you indicating the views expressed by the 21 professors in the aforementioned letter DO NOT represent the views of the University of Lethbridge to combat any potential perception issues.

Furthermore, the public statement ought to recognize the importance of the oil and gas industry to Alberta, Canada and the world – and how it is worthy of support during this crisis.

Thank you for your leadership of a critical Alberta institution, and for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Best regards,



Dallas Howe, Chair



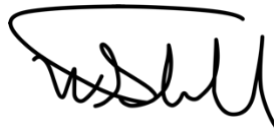
Grant Fagerheim



Stan Grad



Tim Hearn



Bill Turnbull

cc Kurt E. Schlachter, Board Chair  
Andrew W. Hakin, Provost & VP (Academic)