16 April 2020

Buffalo Project
PO Box 2554, Stn. M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M7

Dear Members of the Buffalo Project Advisory Board,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 13 April 2020. I want to assure you that the opinions expressed by the lead writers of the open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau do **not** reflect the views of the University of Alberta. As you note in your letter, faculty members have a right to free expression as well as academic freedom.

In contrast to the position expressed in their letter, the U of A recognizes that the impact of COVID-19 and the collapse of oil prices has been devastating for the economic and social well-being of the province as whole, and more directly, for our families, friends, and neighbours. Job losses, business closures and industry slow-downs are being felt by hundreds of thousands of Albertans. As a university, our role is to be a partner in the province's recovery.

I am actively engaging with colleagues in Ottawa to increase understanding of the situation here in Alberta, and on behalf of the U of A, I am making the case for financial support for the province, our communities, and our key industries, including energy and natural resources, as well as support for our employees, students, and research. This support is critical to the well-being of our province in these unprecedented times.

As we look to the future, we will build on the strength of our partnerships and continue to support the rebuilding of Alberta's economic and social prosperity in all sectors--including oil and gas, agriculture, healthcare, education, AI and bio-technology. Only by working together will we find innovative and compelling solutions to the challenges Alberta faces and make a full recovery.

You can find my recent public statement in support of Alberta in a time of crisis here.

Yours sincerely,

David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, LLD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor