

15 April 2020

Buffalo Project Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2554 Stn. M.
Calgary, AB T2P 2M7

Dear Messrs Howe, Fagerheim, Grad, Hearn, and Turnbull,

Thank you for your communication of 13 April regarding the decision of University of Regina academics to sign a letter asking the Government of Canada not to provide financial assistance to the oil and gas sector at this time of national, indeed international, crisis.

I fully understand your response to that letter.

I also appreciate your strong support of academic freedom, free thought, and uninhibited research. These are central to the mission of this and all universities, giving individual faculty members the freedom to express their views.

That said, on the question of financial assistance to the oil and gas sector, there is no unanimity of opinion among faculty. Nor is there an institutional stance.

Together with many members of the campus community – current students and their families, alumni, community partners, employers of our co-op and internship students, and more – I am very conscious of the unprecedented economic and personal hardships currently faced by those in the oil and gas industry. I am also conscious of how people of this industry are materially helping to address the COVID-19 pandemic through the creation, production, and transportation of essential medical supplies, and so much more.

In the search to understand and provide solutions to climate change, these people – thousands of our fellow citizens here in Saskatchewan, throughout the west, and across the country – cannot be overlooked or forgotten.

I want to thank you for reaching out to me, and very much hope that we can meet in person once we are able to do so.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Chase
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

Copies: Roger Brandvold, Chair, University of Regina Board of Governors
Dr. David Gregory, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)