

Letter of Concern for Bill C-5

To: Prime Minister Carney, Minister Dabrusin for the Environment and Climate Change, Minister Chartrand for Northern and Arctic Affairs and Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Minister Alty for Crown-Indigenous Relations, Minister Hajdu for Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, Minister Hodgson for Energy and Natural Resources, Minister Robertson for Housing, Infrastructure and Pacific Economic Development, Minister Olszewski for Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Prairies Economic Development, Minister Solomon for Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, Minister Thompson for Fisheries, Minister Lightbound for Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Minister Joly for Industry and Economic Development Quebec Regions, Minister Freeland for Transport and Internal Trade, Minister Fraser for Justice, Attorney General and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Minister Guilbeault for Canadian Identity and Culture, Minister Champagne for Finance and National Revenue, Minister Leblanc for the Intergovernmental Affairs, One Canadian Economy and President of the King's Privy Council for Canada:

Dear/Chers Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada and Honourable Ministers,

I am writing to provide recommendations regarding Bill C-5. While the intention to fast-track nation-building projects is understandable given the urgency of economic recovery and national cohesion, it is essential that this be done responsibly, with clear safeguards in place for climate, sustainability, and Indigenous rights.

Recommendations

1. Clarify Project Selection Criteria

Please clarify how the listed factors will be prioritized and used in the selection of nation-building projects. The legislation should state clearly that these factors will be used in combination to determine what constitutes the “national interest.”

Furthermore, language should be included to ensure that no project is approved if it significantly undermines any one of the listed factors.

Factor (c), “*have a high likelihood of successful execution*,” should be a mandatory condition—not optional. “Successful execution” must include clear criteria such as staying within budget, on-time delivery, effective risk management, achieving stated objectives, and avoiding unforeseen negative consequences.

2. Embed Climate Accountability

Projects fast-tracked under Bill C-5 must meet emissions reduction targets consistent with Canada’s 2030 and 2050 climate goals.

This requires:

- Mandatory, independent lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments before approval.

- Clear emissions performance benchmarks tied to project funding and approval.
- Prioritization of investments in clean energy, public transit, and climate-resilient infrastructure.
Weakening environmental oversight at a time of accelerating climate change risks locking in long-term harm, undermining both our economy and public health.

3. Implement Sustainability Impact Assessments

Require comprehensive social, environmental, and economic assessments for all proposed projects.

Establish clear, minimum sustainability thresholds that must be met to qualify for fast-tracking. This will help prevent costly consequences down the line and maintain public confidence.

4. Establish Indigenous Partnership

Work directly with Indigenous Peoples to co-develop language for the Bill and future regulations that ensures full participation in:

- The process of selecting nation-building projects,
- Determining project conditions and safeguards, and
- Creating enforceable agreements that guarantee the fair sharing of economic benefits.

This aligns with the Crown's duty to consult and the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

Amending Bill C-5 to embed climate accountability and strengthen Indigenous partnerships will reflect the Liberal government's commitment to building a fair, responsible, and sustainable Canadian economy. These changes will align infrastructure development with our national climate obligations while increasing transparency and public trust.

Parliament must take the time needed to properly review and debate the full implications of Bill C-5. Rushing to meet a self-imposed deadline is not only undemocratic—it risks long-term harm that Canadians cannot afford.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Postal code]

Recipients:

mark.carney@parl.gc.ca
julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca
rebecca.chartrand@parl.gc.ca
rebecca.alty@parl.gc.ca
patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca
tim.hodgson@parl.gc.ca
gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca
eleanor.olszewski@parl.gc.ca
joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca
joel.lightbound@parl.gc.ca
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca
Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca
francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca
dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca
melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca
evan.solomon@parl.gc.ca
Raymonde.Gagne@sen.parl.gc.ca
Bernadette.Clement@sen.parl.gc.ca