

Honourable David Marit
Box 2097
Assiniboia, SK, S0H 0B0

Dear Mr. Marit,

The residents of Willow Bunch and the RM of Willow Bunch No. 42 wish to express their concern about the impact from the Federal Government's decision to transition away from coal-generated electricity which will result in the closure of the Sask Power Poplar River Power Plant and Westmoreland coal mine in 2030. Willow Bunch and the surrounding Region will realize the loss of \$30M in annual payroll resulting from the closure of these facilities. To offset these job losses, members of the Town of Willow Bunch and the RM of Willow Bunch No. 42 have identified tourism as the industry which represents the greatest opportunity to offset the loss of approximately 300 jobs.

Federal funding opportunities such as the Canadian Coal Transition Initiative available through Prairies Economic Development Canada that were implemented to help workers and communities in areas that rely on coal to adjust, by supporting skills development and economic diversification activities during the transition to a greener economy along with the Provincial Government's investment of \$2 million to support, Coronach and area transitioning from coal-based industries to other economic opportunities simply isn't enough.

Mr. Marit, an excess of \$30 million in annual payroll will be lost. How do 9 municipalities mitigate the effects of coal transition with \$2 million in provincial funding and an application process to the federal government in the hopes of securing a mere portion of the required funding to develop a sustainable economic plan? All the money has been allocated, we have very little to show for it and we still have 7 years to go before the closure! What have we accomplished? Planning takes time, the process takes time, and now funding has been exhausted. Costs continue to rise, in some cases have already doubled and tripled.

We, the tax payers in these municipalities, have *united* to develop a world class tourism asset which will complement existing tourism venues in Willow Bunch *and* the surrounding Region, create jobs and create economic opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs but we need the support of our Provincial government.

We appeal to you to lobby the Provincial government to recognize the negative effects, recognize that the \$10 million dollar investment to Estevan and Coronach is not enough to bridge the gap between coal and a greener economy and that the provincial government needs to step up and support coal-producing communities through this transition.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,