

REC'D - HALIFAX

15 -10- 2008

CHAMBER OF COMM.

October 9, 2008

Ms. Nancy Conrad
Senior Vice President, Policy
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
656 Windmill Road, Suite 200
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1B8

Dear Ms. Conrad:

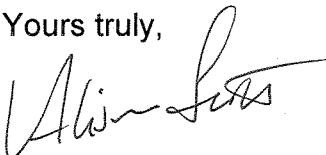
I am writing in reply to your letter with respect to your annual update and its focus on energy.

The Department of Energy fully accepts your rationale for why this issue should be a focus for your members. The opportunities in the sector as well as the overarching nature of energy for our economy and its ability to compete are upmost in our minds as well.

Your suggested actions have been well received as part of our consultation process and I believe you will see many of the elements reflected in our renewed strategy. In fact, we are already working in the directions you have urged so that we continue to be in the forefront of energy trends and issues.

I would also like to note the need for flexibility in the face of the tremendous volatility in our energy and financial marketplaces. Although we have a number of focused and immediate plans to move us toward our goals and objectives, the rapid pace of market change in assumptions and the availability of capital means we need to be able to adjust quickly. We will remain true to the objectives - but the paths may require frequent adjustment and I hope your Chamber will appreciate the need to adjust direction.

Yours truly,



Alison Scott
Deputy Minister