

September 17th, 2021

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
453 W 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

RE: Proposed Motion “Acting on the Climate Emergency by Opposing the Tilbury LNG Phase Two Expansion Project”

Dear Mayor Stewart and Councillors,

The Delta Chamber of Commerce represents member businesses across the service, retail, industrial, fishing and farming sectors in our community. As an international border city and home to Deltaport – Canada’s largest container terminal – Delta is a transportation hub and plays a critical role in our country’s participation in the global economy.

FortisBC’s Tilbury Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant has been safely operating in the Tilbury Industrial Park of Delta since it was first constructed in 1971. It has also been producing LNG for marine customers such as BC Ferries and Seaspan Ferries, and storing LNG to meet the energy needs of existing FortisBC customers here in BC, for over a decade.

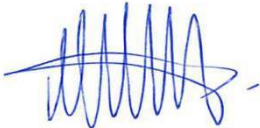
The Tilbury LNG facility has been at the heart of B.C.’s energy system by providing natural gas supply during the winter, when current customer demand is at its highest. FortisBC is planning to upgrade their Tilbury facility to enhance the resiliency of its system and meet rising global demand for liquefied natural gas. By adding storage capacity, the company can continue to provide energy to customers when they need it most: during the winter.

Federally, Canada plays a key role in leading the transition away from high carbon-emission fuels to meet new global shipping emissions regulations. As the global shipping industry emits more GHGs than all of Canada combined, LNG from Tilbury is one of the ways in which B.C. can make the greatest impact on reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Compared to other marine fuels, LNG from Tilbury can reduce air pollutants and GHG emissions by up to 27 per cent, depending on the engine used. Ocean-going ships are one of the largest sources of air pollutants like sulphur oxides in the region. LNG from Tilbury can lower ship exhaust emissions of sulphur oxides (SOx) to almost zero; nitrogen oxides (NOx) by up to 95 per cent for diesel cycle engines; up to 85 per cent for Otto cycle engines; and particulate matter (PM) by up to 99 per cent. This change in marine fuel types has a direct and positive impact on the air quality – and therefore quality of life – for Delta residents.

Finally, and critically, we want to emphasize that FortisBC has a solid history of safe operations at its Tilbury LNG plant. As noted in a June 2020 City of Delta Staff Report to Mayor and Council, FortisBC and Delta Fire and Emergency Services have a long-standing relationship related to the Tilbury LNG facility. This relationship dates back to when the facility was first constructed in 1971 and “has included regular reviews of FortisBC’s Fire Safety Plan for the site over the years as the facility has evolved and ongoing participation in emergency exercises.” As noted in the report, there have been no major incidents and FortisBC will be actively consulting with Delta Fire and Emergency Services throughout the Environmental Assessment Process for the Phase 2 Expansion project.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce with a long history of representing the businesses in our community, and we support FortisBC’s application to move to newer, even safer facilities and to provide a reliable and resilient natural gas supply to its customers. As all levels of government and industry work towards net-zero emissions goals, we endorse this project as part of the transition process; providing a cleaner, lower-emission interim fuel source which will assist the marine and transportation industry as it transitions its infrastructure, systems, vessels, and vehicles to net-zero emissions alternatives in the future.

Sincerely,



Rick Gibbs
Board Chair
Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Mayor and Council, City of Delta
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
Board of Directors, Delta Chamber of Commerce