



September 6, 2018

Chevron
6001 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583
USA

Attn. CEO of Chevron

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: Corporate Responsibility for Climate Impacts in BC Coastal Communities

The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is made up of 53 local governments (municipalities and regional districts) located on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River, the Central Coast and the North Coast regions of British Columbia, Canada.

As our name implies, our communities are largely located on the coast and, like coastal communities around the world, our members are increasingly concerned about climate change, including sea level rise.

The Province of British Columbia has advised coastal communities to upgrade our infrastructure to withstand a one-metre increase in sea-level rise by 2100, although some climate scientists warn that sea level rise may be faster and more dramatic. As local governments, we are responsible for ensuring that our communities are kept safe from foreseeable changes and that we continue to provide a range of services to our communities. Many of our members are already incurring expenses to plan for and build infrastructure to withstand flooding, storm surges and coastal erosion associated with climate change.

In addition to sea level rise, many of our members have been affected by multi-year summer droughts and increased precipitation during winter storms. Much of the region was blanketed by smoke this year and last year from wildfires in the interior, and wildfire risk is another top of mind climate-related concern.



Climate-related costs, risks and concerns vary significantly between our different communities. Five of our member municipalities have already written to you to outline their own perspectives on what climate change means for their community and what costs they are facing. Others may choose to do so in the coming months and years. In general, however, each of our member communities will face increased planning, infrastructure, service delivery and other costs as climate change gets worse. In some cases they may also face catastrophic loss where adaptation measures fail to prevent flooding, wildfires or other losses.

Climate change – as a result of pollution from your products – is already occurring, and growing more severe as you continue to market your products and continue to develop fossil fuel reserves that scientists say are inconsistent with the globally agreed goal of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C. It has been estimated that your company’s operations and products are responsible for about 3.34% of historic greenhouse gas emissions.¹

We recognize that individual consumers do play, collectively, a significant role in the fossil fuel economy. However, your company has profited from selling the products that give rise to climate change and has been aware of the types of impacts that fossil fuel pollution would cause communities such as ours from the 1960s at least.² Your industry has had the power to lead the transition away from the fossil fuel economy, but has instead lobbied against global action on climate change.

It would be unfair and bad economics to insist that taxpayers pay all of the costs of climate change while your industry pays nothing (beyond the tax dollars paid by all businesses).

Therefore, we expect you to pay your fair share of the climate costs incurred as our members work to plan for, build and modify infrastructure and services to develop more climate resilient communities. Similarly, if climate change harms our communities, we expect you to assist with the costs of rebuilding. We suggest that your company’s fair share is equivalent to your proportionate contribution to climate change (ie. 3.34% in

¹ Heede, R. “Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010” *Climatic Change* (2014) 122: 229. doi:10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y, updated to 2013 at http://climateaccountability.org/carbon_majors_update.html, last accessed 23 January 2017.

² <https://www.smokeandfumes.org/fumes>, last accessed 23 January 2017.



the case of your company). You cannot make billions of dollars selling your product, knowing that it is causing significant financial harm to communities around the world, and not expect to pay at least that much.

The fact that – to this date – your industry has not paid its fair share of climate impacts has meant that you have had little incentive to grapple with the huge costs that your industry is imposing on communities around the world. We are committed to doing our part to avoid climate change, but from now on we expect that you will do your part too.

Sincerely,

President Edwin Grieve,
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

- cc. Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, BC
- cc. Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
- cc. Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources, Canada