



Department for **Transport**

**From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State**

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Diana McQueen
Minister of the Government of Alberta
Department of Environment and Water
425 Legislature Building
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Canada

2 February 2012

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2011 to Caroline Spelman, about the Government of Alberta's concerns over the European commission proposal for an implementing measure of the Fuel Quality Directive. I am responding as Minister with responsibility for implementing the Fuel Quality Directive to which the concerns around oil sands are relevant.

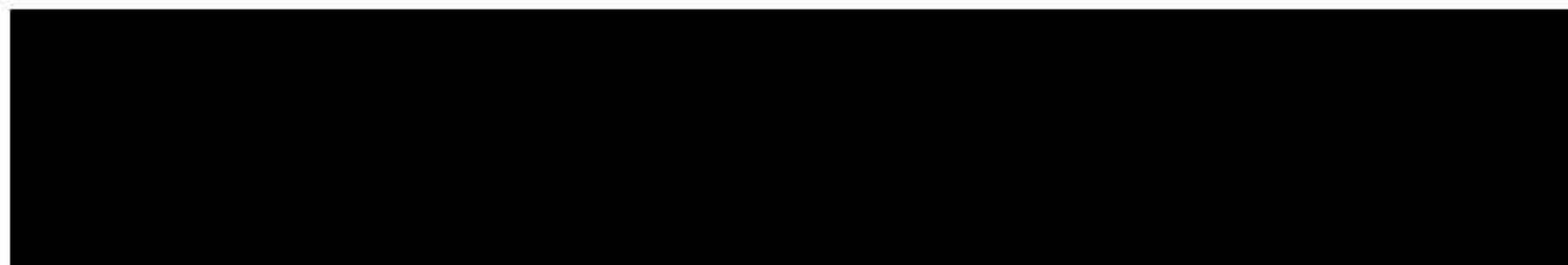
The UK Government remains committed to achieving EU agreement on a move to a 30% carbon reduction target and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including from transport fuels. The Fuel Quality Directive will be a key tool to achieve this aim.

We are seeking an effective solution to address the carbon emissions from all highly polluting crudes and that is based on robust and objective data. There are a number of different sources of crude where extraction leads to higher GHG emissions and obviously these are less attractive than those which do not.

The UK Government is continuing to work with others, including the European Commission, other Member States, environmental groups and the fuel industry, to build support for an approach that achieves our environmental objectives of achieving real action on climate change. My officials and their counterparts from Canada's High Commission to the UK have also discussed, and will continue to discuss, the issues of concern you

raise in your letter, as well as related issues, including the regrettable decision of the Canadian government to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Norman Baker.

NORMAN BAKER