

To:

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

Location:

PS/ Norman Baker
Zone 5/17 GMH
Department for Transport

Meeting between Norman Baker MP and Canadian High Commissioner, Gordon Campbell: 2 November 2011

1. You were present at Norman Baker's (NB) introductory meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner, Gordon Campbell (GC) (accompanied by Dr Sushma Gera).
2. After general introductions, GC confirmed that Canada was broadly supportive of the principles of the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) and its potential role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, he reiterated their concern that the FQD is not based on sound science or robust data (for the default values).
3. In relation to 7a of the FQD (oil sands), NB stressed the importance of finding a solution that was right environmentally, but which is also an equitable solution which does not single out individual countries. He highlighted the importance of not just tackling Canadian oil sands, but also crudes from other countries. Whilst we must address high emitting oil sands as soon as we can, we cannot miss the opportunity to take action on crudes from other countries now.
4. GC agreed with this approach [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5. They discussed the strong message being received from green NGOs on the importance of supporting the EU proposal on article 7a, and taking action on Canadian oil sands now, rather than kick off to the future. He asked GC's view on how the use of oil sands affects Canada's image. GC said that it is important to get out in there and tell Canada's story – they are investing billions in carbon capture and storage, and are able to say that 70% of its electricity is generated by non-emitting sources.
6. GC said that the key to addressing the issue was to bring in other high emitting countries by requiring them to be transparent with their emissions data. By targeting a Canada, which operates transparently and measures and report on its emissions, the EU is rewarding those countries which are not upfront about their emissions, sending a strong message that it is best not to be transparent. Canada is measuring its emissions from flaring, whereas other countries are not. NB agreed that this is a risk and something which should be considered and asked how other countries might be incentivised to come forward and be more transparent. GC responded [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] that the EU needs to set the standard.
7. GC referenced Canadian Minister Oliver's letter to the Commission which sets out Canada's wish to step up to the mark by generating and funding science advancement.