



Resource Municipalities  
**COALITION**

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**West Coast Environmental Law**

200-2006 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3

March 11, 2019

**RE: Climate Change and Fossil Fuels**

Mr. Andrew Gage,

The Resource Municipalities Coalition is a collaboration of municipalities in British Columbia, that believe the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources will only be accomplished through the sustainable and responsible use of fossil fuels. This transition will occur over a long period of time and require the use of fossil fuels to both build and pay for any move towards renewables. Moreover, the positive impact of the use of fossil fuels by society is undeniable and has contributed to the high standard of living British Columbians enjoy today. Fossil fuel use is ubiquitous - every one of us uses and benefits from these products.

In a letter addressed to municipalities throughout the province, West Coast Environmental Law requests Climate Accountability letters be sent to 20 of the world's largest fossil fuel companies demanding they pay some 'fair share' of local climate impact costs, of which you note - only contribute about 30% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. WCEL also goes further suggesting municipalities join class action lawsuits against these same companies.

We prefer working together on productive and proactive solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change, rather than focusing limited budgets and resources on a letter writing campaign that you readily admit will have little impact and virtually no hope of succeeding. After these pointless letters are sent and duly ignored, WCEL suggests an escalation to class action lawsuits and seeks out volunteer communities to lead such a fight. WCEL places the risk and cost of these lawsuits on communities and taxpayers.

A municipalities' obligation to their taxpayers does not include exposing them to the financial risk of such specious lawsuits whose only guarantees are to be lengthy, expensive, and come with little to no chance of success. Your claim to be working to help taxpayers avoid costs seems contradictory to your requests to engage in costly never-ending lawsuits.

We much prefer the direction of working together to educate British Columbians and others about the benefits of our resource sectors. We are sure our efforts will have a more positive impact than suing 20 global fossil fuel companies – and ultimately come at a fraction of the cost to the tax payer in comparison to litigation.

The Coalition looks to seek out solutions and avoid trying to assign blame, as responsible resource development is everyone's responsibility. Our members, our region and our citizens recognize the balance of resource development and our environment and will be encouraging municipalities to not join your campaign or comply with its request.

Sincerely,



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Mayor Lori Ackerman  
City of Fort St John



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Mayor Rob Fraser  
District of Taylor



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Mayor Keith Bertrand  
District of Tumbler Ridge



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Mayor Joan Atkinson  
District of Mackenzie



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Mike Whalley  
Executive Director