

To whom it may concern.

21 octobre 2020

Object : GNL Québec project

The 14th of May 1971, Pope Paul VI wrote in his Apostolic letter, *Octogesima Adveniens*, “Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation”. It is now a well-documented fact that fossil fuel technology and consumption is now known to be detrimental to the long-term health and welfare of our planet. Now faced with global environmental deterioration, decisions for such a project should no longer be based on economic impact but on moral obligation. In fact, these fossil-fuel projects should no longer be even presented. And despite all the promised efforts provided for the project to minimize the environmental and social impact, there are, and always have been impacts which cannot, nor will be, corrected. History should not be ignored. Fundamentally, fossil fuel companies have lost much credibility with respect to environmental and social concerns. The established models of development in the fossil fuel domain have proven beyond any doubt that they are ‘incapable of ensuring respect for the environment’.

Québec can no longer afford, nor defend - other than for purely profit or political based reasons - the continued support of new fossil fuel projects. The continued support of an established structural and dysfunctional economic model that ignores the fact that clear and unavoidable environmental damage will irrevocably causes social degradation can no longer be tolerated. We have already inflicted enough upon our beloved provinces’ resources (unnecessary deforestation of our SEPAQ’s (as an example), mining, agricultural pesticides, manufacturing and industrial poisonous by-products, chemical dumping, etc.) that it is time to move on to more sustainable, cleaner and renewable energy sources. Our political leaders and companies can no longer plead ignorance; we have the capacity in an innovative Québec to be a world leader in the elimination of our dependency upon fossil fuels – to be the leaders in a ‘global ecological conversion’. In fact, our political leaders and companies have a moral obligation to the people of Quebec to be leaders in an ‘authentic human ecology’ (*Encyclical letter Centesimus Annus, 1991*).

As a result, as a biologist and citizen of Québec, I cannot support this project.

With respect

Guy Laverdure, M.Sc.,M.Sc.A