

September 22, 2016

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship
c/o Committee Clerk
3rd Floor, 9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7
(sent via email: ResourceStewardship.Committee@assembly.ab.ca)

Re: Comprehensive Review of the *Lobbyists Act*

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in the comprehensive review of the *Lobbyists Act* and we are pleased to now provide our formal input.

Syncrude appreciates the government's intent to ensure there is transparency in lobbying activities related to the laws, regulations, policies and programs of the province. As the current requirement is to capture any interaction at any level within the government, we believe improvements could ensure the process more directly meets the intent of the Act. Within the current reporting format, it is not possible to know whether the interaction was to discuss administrative program matters, clarify process or to influence the government. Currently, there is no way to ascertain the number, depth, level or extent of the meetings that were held on a specific issue.

We propose that if the scope of reporting was more focused, it would provide more transparency. That is, we recommend that the requirement to report on interactions be narrowed to only senior government officials at a certain level and above, similar to the federal government's "Designated Public Office Holder" (e.g. Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers, elected officials and their staff).

As well, quarterly reporting of meetings and interactions with individuals at these levels would provide the public a better understanding of the lobby efforts, rather than the current bi-annual collection that does not report on the number of meetings. We believe more frequent reporting, balanced against more focused reporting, would both support transparency and efficient public process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Kara Flynn
Vice President of Government and Public Affairs