



23 September 2016

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship,
c/o Committee Clerk, 3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1E7

Sent via email: ResourceStewardship.Committee@assembly.ab.ca

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

RE: Comprehensive Review of the *Lobbyists Act*

Cenovus appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Alberta Lobbyist Act review. As the legislation states, free and open access to government is an important matter of public interest. As an important part of the policy development process lobbying helps ensure public office holders are able to consider a wide range of viewpoints and impacts on stakeholders as they shape future policies.

We believe the current legislation achieves an appropriate balance between the real need for stakeholders to have input into the legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern them and the public benefits of a transparent process. The current 6 month reporting interval provides sufficiently frequent updates to public record without being overly onerous and costly to businesses and other organizations who are registered through the system. We recommend that government maintain this interval, which has emerged as a standard in western Canada.

Although we are satisfied with the current stringency of the legislation we will offer a suggestion for a potential improvement to implementation of the registry. The online web reporting tool is getting old and technical flaws are becoming increasingly apparent. This can trigger unnecessary delays in efficient reporting. Measured across the many companies reporting their lobbying activities these small glitches can add up to what should be an easily avoidable time cost burden to businesses. We suggest that effort and resources invested to streamline and improve the reliability of the web tool would be good place to focus attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the review of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Jim Campbell
Vice President, Government & Community Affairs