Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau,
Minister Catherine McKenna,

157,421 demand: keep tar sand in the ground!

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,
Dear Minister Catherine McKenna,

Canada is among the countries with the most extensive forests on the planet. The old-growth rainforests of British Columbia, the maple tree forest in Quebec, and the boreal forests in the North are habitat for countless plant and animal species. The forests and wetlands store huge amounts of carbon and play an important role in mitigating climate change on a global scale.

It is crucial that Canada protect its forests – yet you have not been living up to this responsibility.

The tar sand areas in Alberta are the most horrible and obvious example of this lack of responsibility.

For many years, vast forest and wetlands areas have been destroyed for open-pit mines and the production of the dirtiest fossil oil in the world. The Athabasca river has been poisoned, caribou and bear habitat has been destroyed and First Nations rights have been violated.

Teck Recourse’s proposed Frontier tar sand mine would damage Canada’s climate change commitments.

From the year 2026 on, Teck plans to produce 260,000 barrels oil per day – over the course of 50 years. The approval of this new project would perpetuate the burning of fossil fuels despite the urgent need for humanity to switch to renewable energy as soon as possible to avoid further damage to the climate.

Furthermore, the tar sand mine project would be harmful to the habitat of significant plant and animal species, to the Athabasca River and other water resources, and to the Wood Buffalo National Park UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Considering the existing and potential damage and harm, 157,421 people from around the world ask you kindly to:

- stop Teck Resource’s proposed Frontier tar sand mine and tar sand exploitation in general.
- stop the construction of oil pipelines like Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain that are connected with tar sand exploitation.
- protect the Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- protect Canada’s forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes.
- respect the rights of First Nations and Métis communities who oppose tar sand mining and oil pipelines.

Your government was praised during the Bonn climate summit when announcing an end to burning coal. That pledge would be hypocritical, however, if you continue keep supporting tar sand exploitation. Canada can neither achieve its climate targets under the Paris Agreement nor its national climate plan if it exploits tar sand further.

Please live up to your responsibility to protect Canada’s forest and the global climate: keep tar sand in the ground!

This petition has been signed by 157,421 people from around the world.

Yours faithfully,

Reinhard Behrend

Please find the petiton here:

https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1128/oil-tankers-or-orcas-keep-tar-sand-in-the-ground