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Ronnie LeBlanc
Warden, Municipality of Clare
1185 Highway 1
Little Brook, NS B0W 1Z0

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 2018, regarding offshore oil and gas exploration in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotians have told us that they broadly support our continued work to develop our offshore energy resources. The oil and gas industry have coexisted with our tourism and commercial fishing industries for generations and can continue to do so. We recognize that this coexistence relies on appropriate regulation of all of ocean activities and we fully understand and appreciate the value of healthy oceans.

Canada has one of the most robust regulatory regimes in the world when it comes to offshore oil and gas, and we are continuing to work with our federal and provincial partners to ensure the legislative and regulatory regime is modern and reflects our high standards for safety, environmental protection and resource management. The independent regulator of petroleum activities in our offshore is the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB). CNSOPB was established jointly by the Federal and Provincial Governments and its mandate prioritizes the health and safety of workers and the protection of the environment. It has no role in promoting the industry, or its development and has a track record of almost 30 years of excellence in offshore safety and environmental regulation.

As part of its regulatory role, the CNSOPB regularly consults with stakeholders, members of the public, and with potentially impacted Aboriginal communities. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me and I encourage you and other interested parties to further participate in those existing and ongoing consultation processes and opportunities for public engagement.

Sincerely,



Derek Mombourquette
Minister

RECEIVED

FEB 05 2019