



BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy strongly urges Maple Ridge City Council to drop plans for costly early imposition of ban on affordable, dependable energy choices to heat homes, cook food and run businesses with renewable natural gas, natural gas and hydrogen in the future

VANCOUVER – The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE], a new coalition of business and labour groups, is strongly urging Maple Ridge City Council to drop plans at its May 28 meeting to vote for the costly early imposition of a ban on affordable, dependable energy choices like renewable natural gas and natural gas to heat homes, cook food and run businesses.

“Imposing a ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas in new buildings in Maple Ridge and forcing them to only use electricity will only add more costs for homeowners, taxpayers, residents and businesses at a time when British Columbia has a severe and ongoing electricity shortage – it just doesn’t make sense,” says BC CADE Director Bill Tieleman.

“BC Hydro imported \$500 million in electricity last year – 20 per cent of its power – and it is looking increasingly like this year will be even worse, so why would Maple Ridge Council force all new residential buildings to only use electricity and ban renewable natural gas and natural gas?” Tieleman asked. “If the Council motion passes Tuesday Maple Ridge homeowners will have higher costs and no choices.”

“Has Council done an analysis of what the increased costs will be for Maple Ridge taxpayers, homeowners, residents and businesses?” Tieleman asked. “At a time when drought continues and snow-pack and river levels are at their lowest since 1970 and BC is importing 20 per cent of its electricity – much of it from non-sustainable power plants – Maple Ridge Council should not be forcing its residents to be dependent on higher and higher priced electricity.”

The Maple Ridge Council “Workshop Agenda” contains a recommendation that Council adopt a section of the provincial *Zero Carbon Step Code* in 2025, five years earlier than the BC government’s own deadline.

RECOMMENDATION: *“That Council direct staff to bring forward an amendment to the Maple Ridge Building Bylaw No. 69252012 for adoption of the EL3 of the Zero Carbon Step Code for all residential buildings to be in effect on July 1, 2025.”*

Tieleman said that if passed, the bylaw would effectively ban renewable natural gas and natural gas from all new residential buildings, making them 100 per cent dependent on electricity. And he said the next step would also ban natural gas in new commercial and industrial buildings.

“This motion to Council has not received the kind of public awareness or input it deserves – it appears to be an attempt to slide it by quietly to avoid scrutiny by the people it will most affect – Maple Ridge residents and businesses,” Tieleman says.

“The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy believes British Columbians want to make the transition to renewable energy but at an appropriate pace that doesn’t damage the economy and create job loss,” Tieleman says. “We need to recognize that our BC economy and jobs are dependent on renewable natural gas and natural gas and transition is going to take time and serious planning – not municipal councils passing motions without understanding the impact.”

For more information: Bill Tieleman, BC CADE Director/West Star Communications: cell 778-896-0964 or office 604-844-7827 or email weststar@telus.net **BC CADE:** Cell 236-865-6580 email info@bccade.ca **Website:** www.bccade.ca

BACKGROUND

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] is a new coalition bringing together businesses, business organizations, labour unions and others to support choice on affordable, dependable energy.

Members of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy include: the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association; Restaurants Canada; the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 213; the Surrey Board of Trade; the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade; the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada; UA Local 170; the Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch; Valor Radiant Gas Fireplaces; Pioneer Fireplace; the Limona Group; the South Asian Business Association; Northwest Stoves; AlignWest Homes; the Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC; the BC Building Trades; Concorde Distributing; Jackson Grills; MaxQuip; Continental Fireplaces & HVAC; and Napoleon Grills.

The BC CADE website – www.bccade.ca – explains the choices BC needs to make to continue to have affordable, dependable energy and why with current drought conditions there could be a serious electricity shortage and high import costs.