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**BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy calls for municipalities to drop effective bans on renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction as the federal and BC governments to end consumer carbon taxes, adapt to likely United States' tariffs on electricity, oil and gas and BC's need for energy self-sufficiency**

**VANCOUVER** - The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy is calling on BC municipalities to drop effective bans on renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction as the federal and BC governments plan to respond to likely United States' tariffs on electricity and natural gas and to end consumer carbon taxes.

Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, said as the energy situation dramatically changes, consumer carbon taxes end and also as British Columbia and Canada take steps to become more energy self-sufficient, it's time for municipalities to stop effectively banning of renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction and to reverse existing bans in cities like Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and others.

"The world is changing rapidly, sometimes daily, and those municipalities that have already effectively banned renewable natural gas and natural gas should realize they have made a serious error in judgement that should be reversed immediately," Tieleman said. "We cannot expect to meet all of BC's energy needs in heating our homes and businesses with only electricity going forward – and municipalities have to see that quickly and stop these bans that will only hurt our economy and jobs."

Tieleman says BC CADE, which represents hundreds of thousands of British Columbians through its Coalition members in business, labour and community organizations, believes it is a mistake that the BC government allows municipalities to impose effective bans renewable natural gas and natural gas years ahead of provincial regulations that would not take effect until 2030 – and could be revised due to changing circumstances.

"BC Hydro had to import \$1.4 billion in electricity from the United States and Alberta over the past two years – we can't continue to increase demand for electricity for things like electric vehicles while not being able to meet existing needs, let alone with some municipalities effectively banning renewable natural gas and natural gas from new construction for homes and businesses," said Tieleman. "And we don't even know how much of that electricity came from coal or other fossil fuel generation, making municipal bans even more absurd."

Tieleman added that having different energy source construction regulations from municipality to municipality is hurting the ability to build affordable homes and businesses.

“The patchwork crazy quilt that is currently permitted by the province just doesn’t make sense – having neighbouring municipalities with completely different energy and construction regulations should not continue – we need one set of energy regulations – and those should not ban renewable natural gas and natural gas,” Tieleman says. “Let’s stop these policies which are quite obviously not ending climate change but certainly are causing damage to our economy and jobs.”

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy represents hundreds of thousands of British Columbians through its Coalition members, which include:

- BC Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch
- Surrey Board of Trade
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
- Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada
- BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association
- Restaurants Canada
- BC Craft Brewers Guild
- BC Asian Restaurant Cafe Owners Association
- International Union of Electrical Workers Local 213
- UA Local 170
- BC Building Trades
- Mott Electric
- Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating
- The Limona Group
- South Asian Business Association
- Northwest Stoves
- Align West Homes
- Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC
- Concorde Distributing
- Jackson Grills
- Ready Propane
- Napoleon Grills & Fireplaces
- Continental Fireplaces & HVAC
- Valor Radiant Gas Fireplaces
- Pioneer Fireplace
- Maxquip
- Regency Fireplace Products
- Heat Savers
- Burden Propane
- Urban Fireplaces
- Quadra Homes

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