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I am pleased to submit this paper on behalf of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS).

Let me begin by saying that the mining industry is committed to the law of the land as laid out in Bill C146 – the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (2007). In an effort to reach the goals outlined in this Act, we are aware of the need for change on a number of fronts from both an individual as well as a corporate point of view. We also know that some current practices in our industry and in other sectors such as forestry, farming and fishing, need to be modified or technically improved to reach those targets.

“Climate Change in Nova Scotia”, the background paper produced by the Department of Energy, makes it clear that all Nova Scotians need to work to conserve energy, increase efficiencies, invest in renewable energy and enhance our fuel supply by ensuring it is as clean as possible. MANS is engaged in working toward solutions to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and would expect that reasonable timelines would be developed to allow our industry to respond and meet targets outlined by the government.

It is refreshing to see in the background paper that the government recognizes that green sources of energy might only be a partial solution and that they would no doubt have to be supplemented by our traditional methods of energy production. It was also interesting to note that the current cost of many green energy sources is more than conventional energy supplies leaving one to question how much financial tolerance Nova Scotians have when it comes to this matter.

Our industry is further encouraged by Minister Dooks’ message that “... we cannot simply divorce ourselves from oil, gas, and coal – our economy and energy demand will require them for some time.” as stated in “Consultation Paper: Nova Scotia’s Renewed Energy Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan.” These statements indicate to MANS that there is an appetite to work together to meet the government targets and we would hope that this could be done through joint research projects, financial assistance for technical upgrades and public education on progress from an industry point of view.

It was striking that nuclear power was completely ignored in either supporting document for consultation. MANS believes that this is a viable option for Nova Scotia and should be included in the provincial energy strategy. The small amount of uranium required to produce energy as compared to other fuel sources dictates that this must be considered. As well, nuclear power is safe, reliable with respect to power supply and relies solely on Canadian fuel sources. We suggest that an open honest debate on the merits of nuclear power need to be undertaken by the provincial government.

It is interesting to note that Nova Scotia remains one of only two jurisdictions in the world that does not allow for uranium exploration. As our energy requirements increase, we need to consider nuclear power as a solution not only to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources but also since there are no CO₂ emissions with this type of power, significant as we discuss plans to deal with climate change. It is estimated that our coal generated power plants produce some 1500 MW per year as compared to the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station in New Brunswick, which is a 635 MW facility. It is also interesting to note that while the province of Nova Scotia does not allow for

uranium exploration, we do buy our power from the grid in New Brunswick, which of course, comes from their nuclear station. MANS does not see the sense of this and would support uranium exploration mining and the nuclear fuel cycle for our province in an effort to become more dependent.

Another factor that MANS believes is critical in outlining a new energy strategy is the province's ability to become less dependent on external energy sources. Nova Scotia currently imports a significant amount of our fossil fuels to meet our total energy needs. In fact, foreign coal is used for 75% of our power consumption in this province. This affects our lives and economy on a daily basis. We need to become more self-reliant and if we diversify our energy sources within the province, we could certainly move in that direction.

It is indeed a balancing act for Nova Scotians who want all of their creature comforts (air conditioning, increased power consumption) but also want government and industry to develop an action plan to deal with climate change and an update energy strategy. This is an issue that affects all of us, both personally and professionally and we need to ensure that everyone understands the process and financial commitment that is required to move this forward. MANS is committed to working with government, other industries and NGOs in reaching the goals and targets set out in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act and we offer our assistance in whatever form is required to develop a Renewed Energy Strategy that will use a diversity of energy sources to ensure the lowest cost for the lowest emissions with the most reliability.

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