

needs and prior federal obligations and commitments, regardless of any investments made by third parties engaged in resource extraction.

45. Support for TransCanada's Energy East Project

All Canadians should benefit from Canadian oil. Energy East is a rare nation-building opportunity that will move oil from the West to refineries and terminals in the East, creating jobs and economic growth from Alberta to Ontario to Quebec and New Brunswick, while reducing our reliance on foreign oil.

The 4,600 km pipeline will transport about 1.1 million barrels of oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to the refineries of Eastern Canada. The project implies converting part of an existing natural gas pipeline to an oil transportation pipeline. The business communities of Ontario and Quebec are encouraged to see TransCanada and the gas companies (Gaz Metro, Enbridge and Union Gas) have signed an agreement to ensure a continued reliable and affordable supply of natural gas to help power both provincial economies. The project also implies constructing new pipelines in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Eastern Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Finally, it includes constructing the associated facilities, pump stations and tank terminals, including marine facilities.

This critical new piece of energy infrastructure will result in the expansion of Canada's oil transportation network, generate additional tax revenues for federal, provincial and municipal governments and, according to the Conference Board of Canada⁸², Energy East will also generate an estimated \$11.5 billion in additional GDP for the Canadian economy during the seven-year development and construction phase and \$24.9 billion the first 20 years of operations.

On the issue of job creation as related to Energy East, The Conference Board of Canada predicts the project will support high quality direct and indirect jobs in several provinces during the seven year construction phase and the first 20 years of operation of the new pipeline⁸³.

The Energy East Project is subject to extensive evaluation by the National Energy Board (NEB), a recognized authority on pipelines in Canada that is committed to examining 16 different areas of interest before approving, amending or not approving the project. Among the conditions is whether the project will follow sustainable development practices of creating wealth while respecting the environment and communities.

There is a lot of dialogue around this project and it is important for the national voice of business to weigh in on this conversation because of its economic benefits, potential for trade and new jobs across the country.

Recommendation

That the federal government create favourable conditions for the Energy East project to move forward, as the project will have significant economic benefits for Canada.

⁸² <http://www.energyeastpipeline.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/economic-backgrounder-en.pdf>

⁸³ Ibid.