November 1, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Metals Service Center Institute (MSCI) is a 110-year-old trade association that serves metals service centers and their supply chain partners across North America. Industrial metals (aluminum, carbon, stainless steel) are the lifeblood to Canadian manufacturing which supports energy, automotive, fabrication and so many other industries. We represent 19 companies with headquarters in Canada, including Arcelor Mittal Dofasco, Russel Metals, Ryerson, Samuel, Son & Co., Stelco and dozens more that operate here. Together these businesses run more than 240 locations throughout the country and directly employ thousands of Canadians. The industrial metals sector also sustains tens of thousands more jobs in many other industries, from aerospace to construction.

We write today to offer congratulations on the results of the October 21st election and to express our gratitude for the comments you made after your victory regarding the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. We believe completion of this project presents an opportunity to reach across the aisle, and the country – to Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan – for the good of the Canadian economy, its workers, and their families.

Many commentators regard pipelines and energy policy as a concern felt primarily in the western part of the nation. Our member companies operate across Canada, from St. John’s, Newfoundland to Fort St. John, British Columbia, and access to affordable energy is a significant concern for them all. Not only do these companies need a reliable and affordable supply of energy to keep their doors open, they also produce and craft the products that go into pipeline materials and construction equipment.

The consequences of not finishing the Trans Mountain pipeline would be devastating, to metals industry workers and employers, and the Canadian economy as a whole. As you are well aware, estimates show the pipeline’s total national economic impact will be in the range of $7.4 billion. According to the Conference Board of Canada, the pipeline project will create the equivalent of 15,000 construction jobs and the equivalent of 37,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, including in the metals sector, every year of its operation. The pipeline also will generate new tax and royalty revenues, including $5.7 billion in expected revenues in British Columbia and $19.4 billion in expected revenues in Alberta, that can be used as seed money for other domestic priorities, including health care, education and investments in Canada’s clean energy transition.
We would encourage your government to collaborate with the private sector to press forward in building Enbridge Line 3 Replacement and TransCanadian XL pipelines as well. Our association is prepared to work collaboratively with your Government and Parliament to ensure, as you said back in July… “building the Trans Mountain pipeline was not between the environment and the economy. It’s in our National interest.”

We believe that, with this prosperity, will come a deeper commitment by Canadians to tackling other challenges, including the looming threat of climate change.

Like your government, the metals industry is committed to sustainability and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. According to a recent study, energy demand to produce new (primary) aluminum is down more than a quarter since 1995. The North American aluminum industry’s carbon footprint has fallen nearly 40 percent during that time and that reduction is equivalent to 37 million barrels of oil saved per year. Another report found the North American steel industry has reduced its energy intensity per ton of production by 35 percent since 1990 and its greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 37 percent over the same time period.

Back in July you said building the Trans Mountain pipeline was not “an either/or” proposition between the environment and the economy. You argued, “It is in Canada’s national interest to protect our environment and invest in tomorrow, while making sure people can feed their families today.”

That statement was the right one, as were your comments directly after the election. On behalf of all our member companies with operations in Canada, we thank you and we look forward to working with your government to complete this important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

(signed on behalf of respective company and as an MSCI member company)

Gregory J. Anderson, Vice President of Sales  
Stelco, Inc.  
Andrew Connor, VP of Commercial  
ArcelorMittal Dofasco, Inc.

Michael L. Deitcher, President  
Alliance Steel Corporation  
Lou A. Germano, President  
Marmon/Keystone Canada, Inc.

Cam Jobin, President  
Del Metals  
Scott B. Jones, President & CEO  
Nova Steel, Inc.

R.S. (Butch) Mandel, President & CEO  
Welded Tube of Canada  
Colin Osborne, President & CEO  
Samuel Son & Co.

John G. Reid, President & CEO  
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