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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ALBERTA

**Jason Hale**  
MLA Strathmore - Brooks

August 28, 2013

Merwan Saher  
Office of the Auditor General  
8th floor, 9925 - 109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8

**Dear Mr. Saher,**

After a much awaited release of the independent Alberta Pipeline Safety Review, there are still several key elements which have not been addressed. I am writing to you today to request that your office Audit the findings of the report to follow up on some of the concerns which have been raised. Additionally, I believe there needs to be an investigation farther than the scope of the released report to include a review on reporting and enforcement policies of the Alberta Energy Regulator.

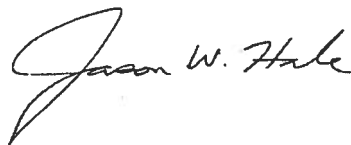
The report did establish that our regulations are strong. This is an important finding because the quality of our pipeline regulatory framework is of vital importance to Alberta's economy and reputation in international markets. However, due to an eight month delay in releasing the report obvious questions surrounding the independence are raised. It is essential when these kinds of reports are being done by third parties that the public have assurance that there is no interference with the authors of the report. In this case the perception alone I believe warrants a closer look into this.

In my examination of the report the scope does not address the issues of reporting, monitoring and enforcement procedures. It has become evident that current ERCB / AER policies have shortfalls which need to be addressed to instill confidence that the Government is actively monitoring and preventing spills.

Individual incidents where spills have occurred were the impetus for the report but were notably absent from the report. Industry has worked hard to position themselves as responsible stewards of the environment, but Albertans need to know that the Government is ensuring all regulations are being followed and reported in a transparent and accountable manner.

Given the importance of this taxpayer-funded report and the significant costs involved in pipeline safety, I ask that your office follow up on this report by examining the outstanding questions around enforcement and monitoring as well as the concerns regarding the independence of the final report.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason W. Hale". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

**Jason Hale, MLA**  
Strathmore – Brooks