



To:
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Sent via email to Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

and

Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
301-10 Barters Hill
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1C 6M1
Telephone: 709-725-2725
Sent via email to: PortAuPort@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

August 29, 2023

Re: Sierra Club Canada Foundation supports Request for Designation for Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project (also known as Project Nujio'qonik)

Dear Minister Guilbeault and Officials at the Impact Assessment Agency:

Sierra Club Canada Foundation strongly supports the Request for Designation for the Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project (also known as Project Nujio'qonik), which was sent to you and the Impact Assessment Agency on April 18, 2023 by the Environmental Transparency Committee of Port au Port, NL.

Sierra Club Canada Foundation is a national grassroots organization that empowers people to be leaders in protecting, restoring and enjoying healthy and safe ecosystems. We are committed to supporting a movement for positive change in this critical decade for climate and biodiversity, 2020-2030. We champion climate solutions and a rapid transition to clean energy, fight for

environmental and social justice, work to protect and restore nature and endangered species, believe in getting people outside to explore and enjoy the outdoors, and promote the conservation of resources.

A rapid transition away from fossil fuel energy is essential, but that must be done in the context of environmental and social justice and with full respect for natural ecosystems and biodiversity. As such, we actively promote and encourage energy democracy, projects that are aligned with community values by and benefit local communities.

We believe that the proposed project – a "wind-to-hydrogen" project that is unique and precedent-setting in scope, scale and potential impacts – must undergo the thorough, participatory process of a federal Impact Assessment, as formally requested by the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of the Port au Port Peninsula through their Environmental Transparency Committee.

Concerned citizens locally, across the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond, have already identified many potential problems and raised many unanswered questions about this precedent-setting Project, including:

- adverse effects on Species-at-Risk, migratory birds, and fish habitat;
- impacts on unique habitats, landscapes, and geological features;
- the unique and untried scale of the Project in such a vulnerable land area;
- threats to Indigenous people's health and way of life;
- harmful impacts and safety threats from proposed infrastructure and transportation; and
- secrecy, misrepresentations and manipulations surrounding the proposal and preparatory work.

The above is far from an exhaustive list.

The current and escalating difficulties around the Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project represent exactly the kind of situation that the Impact Assessment Act is intended to address, with impacts on the natural environment, the rights of Indigenous peoples, threatened and protected species, and long-term sustainability. These factors are many and complex, and they are simply not adequately handled by existing permitting or assessment mechanisms.

What is needed – and what only a full federal IA can provide – is a thorough and independent process of analysis and assessment in which citizens, especially those most affected, have full access, can engage experts and gather local knowledge, and can participate meaningfully from beginning to end.

These are the reasons why Sierra Club Canada Foundation is joining the numerous other supporters at the local, provincial and national levels, to ask you to grant the Environmental Transparency Committee's Request for Designation of the Port au Port-Stephenville Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation Project.

We look forward to your response to this letter, and to your prompt action to designate this project and ensure a timely start to the Impact Assessment itself.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

National Programs Director