«Responsible\_Company»
«Address\_1»
«Address\_2»
«City», «State» «Postal»
«Country»

Attn. CEO of «Responsible\_Company»

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Corporate Responsibillity for Climate Impacts on [Regional District]**

The climate crisis is impacting communities around the world. Local governments, such as [Regional District] are on the front lines of ensuring that our citizens are protected from the worst of these impacts.

Regional Districts are a level of government in British Columbia, Canada, which include representation from several municipal governments, as well as from unincorporated areas. We provide a number of services for the residents of the [Regional District], many of which are impacted by climate change.

Examples of these programs, and some of the associated impacts, include:

[Discuss impacts of climate change on regional road systems, regional parks, drinking water, drainage, wildfire protection or other services offered by the regional district.]

We recognize that the impacts of climate change mean that these services will often need to be adapted, and infrastructure built or upgraded, to address current and anticipated changes in climate in our region. Climate change – as a result of pollution from your products – is already occurring, and growing more severe as you continue to market your products and work at cross purposes to a transition away from fossil fuels. However, we know that by planning for and adapting to impacts at an early date, we can minimize future economic and other impacts of climate change.

Our Regional District has limited tax dollars, and we note that your company has profited from selling the products that give rise to climate change. It has been estimated that products produced by [your company] are responsible for about «M\_\_of\_GHGs\_to\_2013»% of historic greenhouse gas emissions.[[1]](#footnote-1) Your industry has been aware of the role of fossil fuels in causing climate change and the types of impacts that communities such as ours would suffer as a result from the 1960s at least.[[2]](#footnote-2)

We note that your company has continued marketing your harmful products.[[3]](#footnote-3) While we recognize that individual consumers do play a small (although individually insignificant) role in the fossil fuel economy, your company has had the power to lead the transition away from that economy. Instead your company has profited to the tune of many billions of dollars from products that use our global atmosphere as a garbage dump, at the expense of our communities.

It is our responsibility, as one of the communities that face the consequences of the climate crisis, to take action to protect ourselves and our citizens.

Accordingly, as we undertake the task of planning for, and building and modifying our infrastructure and services and developing a community that can withstand current and anticipated climate change, we expect you to pay your fair share of the costs. We suggest that this fair share is equivalent to your proportionate contribution to climate change (ie. «M\_\_of\_GHGs\_to\_2013»% in the case of your company). You cannot make billions of dollars selling your product, knowing that it is causing significant financial harm to communities around the world, and not expect to pay at least that much.

If you do not agree that «M\_\_of\_GHGs\_to\_2013»% is your fair share, please inform us what proportion is your fair share, and why. In addition, please tell us what steps you plan to take to reduce or eliminate the future impacts of your company’s products on [Regional District].

The fact that – to this date – your industry has not paid its fair share of climate impacts has allowed you to undervalue renewables and to avoid the consequences of the products that you sell. It has meant that you have had little incentive to grapple with the huge costs that your industry is imposing on communities around the world. We are committed to doing our part to avoid climate change, but from now on we expect that you will do your part too.

Sincerely,

Chair,
[Regional District]

1. Heede, R. “Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010” Climatic Change (2014) 122: 229. doi:10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y, updated to 2013 at <http://climateaccountability.org/carbon_majors_update.html>, last accessed 23 January 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.smokeandfumes.org/fumes>, last accessed 23 January 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2016/03/backgrounder-fossil-fuel-industry-climate-science-deception.pdf>, last accessed 23 September 2016; <http://www.fossilfreemit.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/FossilFreeMIT-Lobbying-Disinformation.pdf>, las accessed 23 September 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)