



March 3, 2015

Mr. John Bennett
National Program Director
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
1510 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 7B7

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank you for your letter pertaining to the recent Access to Information release of the Criminal Threats to the Canadian Petroleum Industry. I would point out that the report was prepared more than a year ago. It was requested after disturbing violence, and a threat to the public and to police officers, by a criminal element within those protesting at the shale gas exploration site in Rexton, New Brunswick.

This report was prepared to ensure the RCMP and its partners had a full understanding of the potential criminal threat from violent extremists, who had the potential to injure members of the public - including other peaceful protesters and first responders, and to damage public and private property.

The report clearly differentiates between those inspired to work passionately within the law to raise awareness of issues it sees in energy development, and those who step outside the law to make their point.

It contains a balance of opinions, most directly quoted from news articles and the websites, of stakeholders on both sides of the debate. It also identifies the strength of the rising opposition to energy development, and its associated support, and explores the 'growing pan-national-fringe-violent extremist faction' within the numbers of those who are passionate about the issue.

There are two mentions of the Sierra Club in the document and neither in any way associates it to criminal activity. The first reference refers to the Sierra Club Canada's position on climate change, and the second cites a study by Dr. David Keith of Harvard University on the success the Sierra Club, among others, has had obtaining funding for its campaign against the Keystone project. Dr. Keith's study is in the appendix and, in addition to the quoted material, cites tax and other disclosures made by the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Canada. The Sierra Club is mentioned in other appended material but none of this was generated by the RCMP, and none of it in any way associates the Sierra Club to criminal activity.

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The RCMP supports the right of Canadians to protest, and to legally raise the profile of issues that concern them. When there is associated criminal activity, including activity which threatens the safety of the Canadian public and first responders, only then is there a requirement for us to respond.

We hope this clarifies some of the information that has circulated in the media recently. We also hope that you will have a better understanding of our role in preparing these types of reports to provide situational awareness and understanding of the full context surrounding criminal threats to Canada's critical infrastructure, to the Canadian public, and to first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Doran', written over a horizontal line.

Scott Doran, Chief Superintendent
Director General
Federal Policing Criminal Operations