



Government  
of Canada

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**Energy**  
**Office of the Minister**

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May 22, 2018

Mr. Keith MacLeod, Chair  
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board  
8th floor, TD Centre  
1791 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3K9

Dear Mr. MacLeod:

Thank you for your letter of March 21, 2018, requesting the ratification of the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board’s six Fundamental Decisions pertaining to the 2018 Calls for Bids.

These Fundamental Decisions were made under the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*. Pursuant to Section 35(1)(a) of those acts, and following discussions between the province and the Government of Canada, we wish to jointly set aside these Fundamental Decisions.

In the weeks ahead, we would be pleased to reconsider the Fundamental Decisions with updated Terms and Conditions for both Call for Bids areas. In particular, we are requesting that you consider extending the closing date for the Calls for Bids to early 2019.

This approach will provide additional time for Nova Scotia to work with industry to promote interest in the Calls. It will also allow the province to better leverage the recently announced investment of \$11.8 million in projects related to Nova Scotia’s Offshore Growth Strategy.

Canada has made, and is continuing to make, significant progress towards its marine conservation target of protecting 10% of its waters by 2020. Achieving this target is of the utmost importance to governments. We are committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders, including the Board, to provide certainty for investors as we advance this work.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.

The Honourable Geoff MacLellan, M.L.A.