[ON LETTERHEAD]

 [DATE]

Dear Honourable Ministers,

The [City/Town/Village] of [BLANK] is sending this letter to you as an endorsement of the Help Cities Lead (HCL) campaign.

As you are aware, municipalities are on the front lines of climate change dealing with the impacts of floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, etc. We directly influence about half of Canada’s energy use and emissions. The success of the province in achieving deep emissions reductions from the building sector is directly connected to the success of local governments in achieving their own targets. While municipalities have shown strong climate leadership, expanded regulatory authority is needed for taking bolder steps to achieving our climate targets.

HCL is an education and awareness campaign focused on accelerating building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The group is led by Climate Caucus and supported by local governments and environmental NGO’s.

Why buildings? Emissions from buildings account for about 11% of the province’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and for municipalities, GHG emissions from existing buildings account for 40-60% of community emissions. A number of BC local governments have made climate emergency declarations and set ambitious targets to significantly reduce GHG emissions from buildings over the next 10 years. However, local governments are largely limited to information campaigns and incentives for pursuing these ambitious reduction targets. Recent climate policy modelling shows that on their own, these policy tools are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and GHG reductions given limited budgets.

HCL campaign recommends a suite of expanded authorities for local governments that will enable communities to take bolder action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings:

* Property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing
* Mandatory home energy labelling
* Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
* Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
* Mandatory building energy benchmarking and reporting

We are pleased to see that the November 2020 mandate letters to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Infrastructure support the implementation of PACE financing. We also note that the mandate letter for the Minister of Finance supports home energy labelling. Finally we pleased to see that the mandate letter to the Attorney-General and Minister Responsible for Housing includes support for regulation of GHG emission of new buildings.

We support the directions set out in these new mandate letters regarding PACE financing, home energy labelling, and GHG requirements for new buildings and request that the province empower local governments to opt to take action, if they so choose, on the two remaining items of the Help Cities Lead’s campaign, namely GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking. Additional information about each of the initiatives can be found at <https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/>

It is our hope that you would consider meeting with a delegation from Help Cities Lead for further discussion on these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Mayor of [BLANK]

CC

The Hon. Minister George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation, EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. David Eby, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca