



September 19, 2025

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Via email: crdchair@crd.bc.ca

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Dear Cliff McNeil-Smith,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board regarding enabling legislation to support local government climate action. I appreciate the CRD's leadership and long-standing commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and advancing climate resilience across the region. The CRD's demonstrated success in achieving a 25 percent per capita reduction in GHG emissions is commendable and reflects the kind of leadership we aim to support and amplify.

The Province recognizes the critical role that local governments play in achieving our shared climate goals. Through initiatives such as the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP), we have provided flexible funding, technical guidance, and reporting tools to support community-specific climate action.

As Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, I am committed to ensuring that our legislative and regulatory frameworks evolve to meet the moment. The Province has enacted several key pieces of legislation—including the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*, the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, and updates to the *Building Act*—that provide a foundation for local climate action. These frameworks support the integration of GHG reduction targets into Official Community Plans and enable local authorities to adopt advanced building performance standards through the BC Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code.

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I appreciate the CRD's thoughtful recommendations, particularly regarding:

1. Voluntary implementation of building performance requirements: The Ministry of Housing is reviewing opportunities to expand local authority in this area, building on the success of the Step Code model.
2. Concurrent authority for environmental protection: This is a complex but important issue, and I welcome further dialogue on how we can streamline processes.
3. Access to technical expertise and utility data: We recognize the need for enhanced support mechanisms and are exploring ways to improve data sharing and capacity-building for local governments.

Your invitation to meet and discuss these matters further is welcome. I will ask my staff to meet with you and report back to me. Together, we can continue to build a collaborative and responsive approach to climate leadership in British Columbia.

Thank you again for your advocacy and partnership.

Sincerely,



Adrian Dix
Minister

pc: Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
CRD Board (crdboard@crd.bc.ca)
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD (trobbsins@crd.bc.ca)