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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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FUTURE PROSPERITY INVOLVES PROMOTION OF OUR OIL SANDS

Development of the oil sands directly employs 132,000 Canadians and accounts for hundreds of thousands more jobs in related service and support industries. Energy represents seven per cent of our Gross Domestic Product and the oil sands alone represent a \$2.3-trillion boost to GDP over the next 25 years, which will help to fund health-care and Canadians' other priorities for many years to come.

Yet several NDP MPs have actually taken part in protests against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to the United States that would greatly expand the market for this resource. And the NDP's lone MP in Alberta has actually called for a moratorium on oil sands development.

But our Conservative Government understands that the oil sands are a proven strategic resource for Canada that create jobs and economic opportunity for Canadians in all regions of the country. We are committed to working with all levels of government and with industry to ensure the oil sands are developed in the most environmentally responsible way.

Last week our Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver was in Washington to reaffirm our commitment to responsibly develop Canada's oil sands and to outline again the opportunities for jobs and energy security that they present for both countries.

Fortunately, our friends in the U.S. appear more open than some Canadian political parties to exploring the benefits of the oil sands. Earlier this year, the U.S. Secretary of State told a Congressional committee that the White House supports using more oil from Alberta oil sands.

This month *Forbes*, the influential business magazine, ranked Canada as the best country in the world in which to do business while praising our low-tax plan for Canadian businesses among the many reasons why. Our Government's ongoing priority is to complete the economic recovery that has made Canada a top-performing nation globally, and we understand that the oil sands are a key component of Canada's economy.

It is in our collective national interest for the oil sands to prosper and we will continue to promote Canada and the oil sands as a stable, secure, and ethical source of energy for the world.