

I applaud Premier Notley's announcement that Alberta will join the growing list of coal-free places through its Climate Leadership Plan. As a business leader in the energy sector in Calgary, I believe our organizations have an opportunity to step up and lead the way to a greener future for every Canadian.

For too long we have heard the debate of extreme views by those who sought to shut down our resource sector against those who sought to develop it at any environmental cost. Neither is reality – the real world works on pragmatic solutions that create fundamental change.

So I applaud the Climate Leadership Plan for its pragmatic “made in Alberta” approach. We are a people blessed with plentiful natural resources but, at the same time, a people who bear the heavy responsibility to develop those resources in an environmentally responsible way. This Climate Leadership Plan sets a high bar for other resource rich regions around the globe to try to achieve, and that feels good.

Our electricity system is part of the solution. We can cut emissions by phasing out coal and moving towards a lower-carbon electricity grid that, in fact, also reduces the carbon intensity of our oil. We can help Alberta transform into the sustainable energy producer the markets and the world expect.

I'm confident we can make this transition in Alberta and make it cost effectively. Why? Because I have seen it happen first hand. Our parent company, Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE), has helped other jurisdictions cost effectively transition from coal to renewable electricity. BHE was the first energy company to sign President Obama's climate change pledge. It has already invested \$15 billion in renewable energy in the U.S., and pledged to invest \$15 billion more.

For example, BHE helped MidAmerican Energy in Iowa transition from producing 70% of their electricity from coal generation (as recently as 2000) to now, where 57% of their retail energy load could be powered by wind generation by the end of 2017. If Iowa can do it, we can too, by investing right away in wind, geothermal and solar generation.

Alberta is well-positioned for this future, thanks in part to a transmission system that will help get new sources of low-carbon, renewable energy to homes, farms and businesses province-wide. AltaLink has been reinforcing the transmission system in central and southern Alberta, readying it to accommodate additional generation capacity from regionally dispersed resources like wind.

Opponents of renewable energy say it's not practical because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. But Alberta has a great wind and solar resource compared to much of North America, which makes us ideally suited to capitalize on renewable energy. We have abundant natural gas generation to act as a safety back-up for those low wind, cloudy



days. Electricity storage technology is improving rapidly and will also play a part in this solution.

The most dramatic change that has occurred in regions that have successfully moved to renewable energy is the remarkable increase in inter-regional cooperation. This cooperation compensates for the variability of renewables by sharing back-up resources and taking advantage of regional weather diversity - where the wind is blowing and the sun is shining at any moment in time. This inter-regional cooperation has broken down age old electric utility barriers to enable renewables at the lowest cost for consumers.

It's important we get this Climate Leadership Plan right, because our future and that of our children depends on our environmental and economic health. It's up to us as Albertans to pull together to make this plan work for a cleaner, greener and economically stronger Alberta.

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