DATE

Honourable Rick Wilson
MLA for Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin

OR

Honourable Jason Nixon
MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

Via Email: Maskwacis.Wetaskiwin@assembly.ab.ca OR Rimbey.RockyMountainhouse.Sundre@assembly.ab.ca

Dear NAME

**RE: Impacts of Proposed Assessment Model Changes**

After hearing about the proposed changes to property assessment for oil and gas wells and pipelines, I wanted to voice my strong concerns over the impact these changes will have. If passed, this decision will have a significant negative impact on myself and all other property owners throughout the County, who will have to pay higher property taxes in order to subsidize a tax break to the oil and gas industry. As I understand it, the County of Wetaskiwin would have to raise residential mill rates by as much as 70.7%, non-residential mill rate by 44.5%, cut 38% of their staff, or make significant cuts to services if these changes are passed. These changes will not only hurt me as a taxpayer, but will also harm other businesses in my community who are already struggling from the impacts of Covid-19

While the oil and gas sector is undoubtably going through trying times, shifting the burden onto property and small business owners does not seem to be an equitable solution to the problem. Many of us are already dealing with financial issues because of the economy and COVID-19. We simply cannot afford higher taxes. As a rural ratepayer, I rely on the vital municipal services provided by the County, including road maintenance, snow removal, fire and emergency service, agricultural services, garbage collection and disposal, water and wastewater provisions, recreational opportunities, and the many cultural and societal benefits the municipality provides. These services will all suffer if these assessment breaks are given to the largest oil and gas companies.

For these reasons I am requesting that you, as my elected representative, speak out and vote against this change. We rely on you to listen to our concerns and respond accordingly through urging your government colleagues to reject this change because of the devasting impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,

NAME