



Brad Trost, MP

Saskatoon – Humboldt

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News Release

Aussie Tax Grab Good for Canada

Canada should take advantage of PM Rudd's short-sightedness to lure Australian investments

OTTAWA – MP Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt, urges the Government of Canada and provincial governments across the country to work together to attract investment capital from high-tax regimes like Australia.

“The recent pronouncement of a new 40 per cent mining tax will drive money out of Australia. Canada needs to take advantage of this opportunity and bring that capital here with investment friendly policies and attractive royalty rates,” said Trost, a former mining geophysicist who now sits on the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade. “I don’t know Prime Minister Rudd’s thinking but it seems to characterize a growing trend in many markets to kill private sector growth – Canada is and needs to continue to be an exception to that trend”.

Trost outlined a five point plan to make Canada more attractive to foreign investment in resource sectors like mining, now that the Government of Australia has proposed its “Resource Super Profits Tax”:

1. The Government of Canada has to make regulatory reform a priority. “The web of red tape and government regulation in Canada is a barrier to investment just as bad as the crazy tax regime in Australia. Streamlining regulations here will mean many more jobs for Canadians. This may be bad for Australia, but we all compete in the global economy,” Trost said.
2. Provincial governments should undertake regular reviews of their royalty rates to ensure Canada maintains a competitive advantage. “The investment economy is a global one and we need to be constantly thinking about how we are ahead of the curve. The fact that BHP Billiton is considering a multibillion dollar potash mine in Saskatchewan shows that our competitive advantage does attract capital to Canada. We need to capitalize on this mistake by Australia and ensure that BHP makes the proposed investment.” Trost said.
3. The federal government should adopt MP Trost’s bill C-436 in Parliament: This Private Members’ Bill that would allow increased foreign ownership in Canada’s uranium mines, while maintaining for the Government of Canada a means to review such oversight to protect the national interest. Passage of C-436 would also signal openness to investment in all mining sectors.
4. Industry representatives should continue to demonstrate their commitment to environmentally responsible resource development in Canada and abroad. “A culture of responsible development is imbedded in Canadian resource industries, and Canadians need to make this more evident.”
5. Planned corporate tax cuts should continue until Canada reaches at least a 25 per cent average corporate rate. “Foreign investors and Canadians in general need to know about this good news story,” Trost noted.

Background

Biography of MP Brad Trost

First elected in June 2004 and re-elected in January 2006 and October 2008, Brad Trost is the Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt; a constituency both urban and rural, in east central Saskatchewan that has the University of Saskatchewan at its heart.

Prior to his election, Brad worked as an exploration geophysicist, having graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with Bachelor degrees in geophysics and economics. Brad was also part of the family farm operation, and found time to teach English for a year in Russia before running for public office.

In his five plus years in Parliament, Brad has concentrated on issues important to Saskatchewan. In particular, Brad had emphasized agriculture and energy issues and worked to support local infrastructure including the University of Saskatchewan. Brad has also taken a special interest in mining issues, including introducing legislation to open up Canada's uranium sector to foreign investment.

Brad has also seconded legislation to repeal Canada's long-gun registry. He also seconded a bill to end tax discrimination against junior hockey.

Brad currently serves as a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade. He formerly served as a member of the Natural Resources Committee and before that, the Industry Committee. He is the founder of the Conservative Party's Energy Caucus and is a member of the cross-party Pro-Life Caucus. He has also served as an elected vice-chair of the Canada-U.S. Parliamentary Association since 2006.