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NATURAL RESOURCES

Export of Bitumen

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, April 15, 2010

THE SENATE

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NATURAL RESOURCES

EXPORT OF BITUMEN

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, Senator Hervieux-Payette has highlighted the fact that China is interested in importing raw bitumen from Alberta's oil sands. These imports would go against the Prime Minister's 2008 campaign promise to prevent any company from exporting raw bitumen. It is true that the government announced yesterday that it was committed to implementing its campaign pledge.

However, we see today in *The Globe and Mail* a report that Sinopec has veto power over the crucial decision whether to upgrade more oil in Alberta or to export the raw bitumen for processing. There is also a plan by Enbridge Inc., in Calgary, to

build a pipeline to the West Coast to facilitate bitumen exports to the Pacific Rim.

In light of these two issues contradicting the campaign pledge of not exporting raw bitumen, can the leader tell us how the government will honour its pledge?

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I will neither comment upon nor judge comments that are written in *The Globe and Mail*. I am well aware of the commitment with regard to bitumen. I will certainly take the honourable senator's question as notice in order to ask my colleagues how they would respond to the newspaper stories in *The Globe and Mail*.

As the government said, our campaign commitment stands.
