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Dear William,

It's clear that last week's budget had one big winner, big oil.

The federal government has announced it will dismantle laws protecting our forests, water and wildlife from runaway industrial activity like tar sands mines and pipelines. They will cut the budgets of key ministries for environmental protection, reducing their capacity to enforce the laws that remain, and they will continue their attack on environmental groups standing in their way.

While funding is cut from environmental protection, tax incentives for the oil and gas sector have been left largely untouched. [Economists estimate](#) these subsidies are costing taxpayers \$1.38 billion per year.

Put frankly, this year's budget prioritizes the government's ambition to turn Canada into a petro-state at the expense of sustainable planning and the health of our environment.

News that the gutting of environmental assessments will apply retroactively to Enbridge's proposed tar sands pipeline is particularly alarming.

This means thousands of people who registered for a democratic process to voice their concerns over how the pipeline may affect their homes and livelihoods may no longer have the chance to be heard. In the face of massive opposition to the project, the government is effectively changing the rules mid-process to favour the oil industry.

They like to say this is simply about making the process more efficient. What it's really about is shutting out your voice, and any other voice that opposes a project destined to lead to disastrous oil spills and accelerated climate change.

And they're not stopping there. The Harper government is also stepping up efforts against environmental groups. Non-profits are being threatened with the loss of their charitable status if they engage too deeply in "political activities" like talking about the dangers of new tar sands pipelines. The budget allocates \$8 million to audit groups at the government's discretion.

Greenpeace does not have charity status – we've become accustomed to the idea that we're not going to get any free passes from governments who prefer to defend polluters. But we are concerned about how these aggressive tactics from the government will affect the great work being done by our allies in the environmental movement.

We need you to stand with us and show this government we won't be intimidated. Rest assured, [with your support](#) Greenpeace will continue to expose environmental problems and call for lasting green solutions.

**HELP US
STOP THE PIPELINE**

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