

for ease of reference when posing questions to witnesses, I would ask my colleagues to be precise when citing specific pages or sections of the documents to which they are referring.

With that, I again welcome everyone to our hearing and invite the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s lead witness to make his opening statement. Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members. I would like to begin by echoing the comments made by Member Angnakak in the Standing Committee’s news release shortly after Labour Day. It is important that Members have the opportunity to scrutinize the spending of public agencies, ask questions regarding corporate priorities of those public agencies, and to obtain an understanding of what has been achieved by those public agencies. This includes the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which, to date, has not had the opportunity to appear in this House.

In years gone by, there have been questions raised both in this Assembly and in the general public about spending by the corporation and its business practices. Some of the decisions made by the corporation may have been the right choices. Conversely, there may have been bad choices too. Without the ability to ask questions of the corporation in this House and to hold the corporation to account, there has been speculation on the part of the general public and likely Members too on the corporation’s conduct.

Standing Committee appearances provide a forum for witnesses to clarify matters of interest and for Standing Committees to make recommendations to improve the performance of government entities.

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One of the changes that was made effective April 1 of this year, is that when there is no longer a use for a particular facility, and there is a potential environmental liability, you have to recognize that in your financial statements. And that is a concern for us. As everybody knows, a lot of our facilities are upwards of forty years plus, and probably have potential environmental liabilities from the past.

To be quite honest at this point in time we are struggling with how to deal with this because we've got to find a balance in terms of a policy that recognizes the new accounting standard, and the needs of our operations, and the needs of the community. I'll be honest at this point we just started doing early work on this year because of the new accounting standard. At this point I don't really have an answer for you but certainly we can keep you updated in that regards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for the answer you provided and we look forward to additions to that being made in the future.

I would like to also ask for clarification in relation to health issues; people who depend on health facilitating equipment and some of them, as one of my colleagues said, some of those people who take those life support systems tend to lose their jobs and they have no income. All of a sudden they have no more income. So I urge you, and your board, to discuss this health issue.

Since those who go on portable life support systems that use power need to use them perpetually. So I would urge that you would consider this carefully along with your board. And I wanted to remind you in urgent

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