**Name of Member of Parliament**

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

**Name of Senator**

The Senate of Canada

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A4

Dear **Mr./Ms./Senator XXX**,

I am writing to you to show my support for Bill S-229, *An Act respecting underground infrastructure safety*, introduced by Senator Grant Mitchell and currently in Second Reading debate as of October 4, 2016. I hope you will also support this important legislation that will reduce the costs and increase safety associated with damages to our underground infrastructure by addressing the need for a mandated comprehensive call/click-before-you-dig notification system across Canada.

Bill S-229 is an important piece of legislation to meand I encourage all Senators and Parliamentarians to support this bill. The federal government should recognize the comprehensive notification systems currently serving Canadians and support their expansion into new areas.

There is a system of underground infrastructure that delivers and transports the services that support us in our daily lives, including energy, television, telecommunications, water and sewage and data supporting Canada’s financial and health sectors. As Senator Mitchell stated in the Senate “It’s a web of wires, pipes, fibre optics and oil and gas pipelines that are at the root of our quality of life and our standard of living.” **INSERT SPECIFIC ADDITIONS HERE – why is this important to you?**

While currently there are Call/Click Before you Dig systems in Canada, there is no comprehensive legislation, except in Ontario, mandating their use. Bill S-229 would ensure the system is comprehensive and effective for underground infrastructure on federal lands by requiring use of a One-Call service prior to excavation and by acknowledging and mandating the damage prevention process that follows use of the One-Call service.

Whether damage to underground infrastructure is the result of major construction or from homeowners digging in their yard, there is a significant cost to Canadians. ,. In 2015, there were more than 10,000 voluntary reports of damage to underground infrastructure in Canada, of which 79 per cent caused a disruption to services.

According to a report conducted by CIRANO, an organization based in Quebec, entitled *Socio-Economic Cost Assessment for Damages to Underground Infrastructures,* there are more than the obvious direct costs, including the cost of the materials, labour costs and administrative costs related to the damages. There are also indirect costs related to the damage, including deployment of emergency services, evacuations, loss of products, environmental contamination and clean-up, economic impact on businesses and risk of injury or death. According to the report, damages to underground infrastructure in 2014 in Quebec resulted in at least $125 million in indirect costs. Further research estimates societal costs of damage across Canada is approximately $1 billion.

Bill S-229 is a positive step in the right direction and it is our hope that it will become a model for similar initiatives in all the provinces and territories across Canada.

I encourage you and your colleagues to take this simple step to increase safety and reduce costs for communities and their citizens and businesses across Canada.

Thank you for your time and support.