

Dr. Lawrence Spinelli

Dr. Spinelli,

I write to urge you to strengthen OPIC's Environmental and Social Policy to expand protections for the global climate and for the safeguard of local communities and the environment.

As a public agency with a development mandate, OPIC should not be financing harmful projects as it has in the past, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline in the Caucasus, the Sakhalin II oil and gas project in Russia, and the Kumtor gold mine in Kyrgyzstan.

I urge you to protect and expand OPIC's draft Environmental and Social Policy provisions that reduce the agency's portfolio of greenhouse gasses by 30% in ten years and 50% in fifteen years. Given the severity of climate change, these percentages should be increased and support for fossil fuel projects should be ended.

I also urge you to expand measures to include more local community participation in project decision-making including a requirement for projects to respect project-affected communities' right to free prior informed consent. And, I urge you to increase transparency of project environmental and social documentation including the disclosure of all project monitoring reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on OPIC's draft Environmental and Social Policy.

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