



The Honourable Leo Housakos, Senator



For Immediate Release

TRUDEAU LIBERALS BLOCKING SENATE EFFORT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO TAXPAYERS

April 7, 2017 (OTTAWA) – Conservative Senator Leo Housakos expressing disappointment but not surprise after Prime Minister Trudeau’s representatives in the Senate blocked his attempt to have a Senate committee look into a controversial federal loan of public money to aerospace giant Bombardier.

Senator Housakos moved a motion in the Senate Chamber Thursday asking that the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation and Communication be authorized to examine and report on issues related to the 373 million dollar loan including, but not limited to, the overall value for investment on behalf of Canadians.

“If the Trudeau government won’t give Canadians the answers they deserve about the use of their tax dollars, then the Senate must,” said Senator Housakos on the Senate floor.

However, despite wide support for the initiative, Trudeau’s Deputy Leader in the Senate did not allow the motion to go to a vote but instead adjourned debate.

“I’m not at all surprised,” said Senator Housakos. “This government does not think Canadians deserve to know anything about this loan, despite the fact it’s their money on the line. It’s par for the course for the Trudeau Liberals. They say they are transparent and accountable yet they act like it is beneath them to have to answer the simplest of questions.”

“We are talking about the most basic information you would expect when you make a loan - what the repayment schedule is and whether the loan is interest free. Is that too much to ask?” remarked Senator Housakos in a speech on the motion.

The Montreal area Senator is equally troubled by the lack of conventions attached to the loan, especially in light of recent revelations of senior executives receiving substantial bonuses while the company continues to cut thousands of middle class jobs.

“We are talking about public money here. Governments have to do the responsible thing and put covenants in place on the use of the funds. Banks and other private lenders or investors are not afraid to put a long list of conditions, representations and warranties in their deals to protect their interests. Don’t taxpayers deserve the same sort of protections?”

As for arguments by some politicians that the government has no place meddling in the business of a private company, Senator Housakos had this to say, “That would be all well and good if we weren’t talking about a company that keeps putting its big paws into the public coffers, looking for and receiving public money. We aren’t talking about a completely self-sufficient private company. We are talking about a company that has received billions of dollars from the Canadian public.”

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