

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Sent:** October 22, 2020 8:06 AM  
**To:** 'Ricardo.Souvenir@international.gc.ca'  
**Cc:** Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Subject:** RE: Trade Committee

Adding Elliott.

Your rationale says there is a request for documents. Is there another portion of the motion that asks for docs?

I think these lines are good. You might want to add that our procurement officials are continuing to negotiate contracts for test kits, vaccines, and PPE (etc) and asking them to appear before committee would take them away from that important work.

You can also include that we were and continue to work in a very competitive market and given the urgent needs of frontline health care workers and all Canadians, our purchasing response required unprecedented speed and agility. We were able to put in a system to supply Canadians with the PPE they needed and we continue to work to ensure they are protected.

I also changed your wording on contract disclosure. Just so it's more in line with what we've been saying.

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**From:** Ricardo.Souvenir@international.gc.ca [mailto:Ricardo.Souvenir@international.gc.ca]  
**Sent:** October 22, 2020 7:39 AM  
**To:** Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC) <chelsea.kusnick@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** Trade Committee

Hi Chelsea,

For the trade Committee there is one caucus member that would like to pass this motion. Obviously, We will suggest ours member to not recommend this one. I just wanted to check if the rational is good in your hand.

That, pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the committee undertake a study on the lessons learned and systems that must be put in place to ensure Canada can guarantee that vital medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) agreements with international trading partners are secure and honored during times of emergency, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Amid COVID-19 pandemic, Canada took long-term steps alongside its G20 partners designed to keep trade flowing and global supply chains open. Regarding PPE, the demand for documents concerning the purchase of personal protective equipment could be particularly sensitive for the government. **We have protected certain contract information in order to protect our negotiating position, and the companies we are working with.** ~~It has used a national security exemption to keep some procurement contracts secret, arguing that the intense global competition for PPE makes it prudent to protect the names of suppliers of items that are particularly hard to come by, such as N95 respirators, gloves and swabs.~~

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