



GREATER KITCHENER WATERLOO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS BUILDING COMMUNITY

May 26, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

As President & CEO of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, I urge you and your government to reconsider any policy or strategy within the forthcoming "Climate Change Action Plan" that would have local residents and business replace the most affordable and at the same time clean energy option we have, natural gas. Electricity costs in Ontario are already high enough and they are scheduled to rise significantly more in the coming years. This is creating a serious competitive challenge for Ontario business. By contrast, natural gas prices are lower now than they were ten years ago and we simply cannot afford to ignore that fact.

Natural gas is a critical partner fuel in a lower-carbon future. Ontario business should continue to be able to choose natural gas without negative consequences. We value the reliability, affordability and sustainability of natural gas to my community and we should not be put in a position where we are being asked or forced to replace it with more expensive electricity driven options. That dynamic would be bad for local business and the greater economy.

I also worry about the obvious pressure this policy would place on existing electricity bills. I struggle to understand where the power generation and transmission needed to power electrified homes will come from and how much will inevitably be needed to satisfy that demand. More power plants and more wires mean more costs for the average Ontarian. We are already paying a heavy price for our electricity and we cannot afford to simply pile new cost after new cost on consumers.

Again, I urge you and your government to reconsider this ill-advised policy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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