

54 Fourth Street, Chatham Ontario N7M 2G2 (519) 352-7540

February 15, 2024

Hon. Todd Smith Minister of Energy 10th Floor 77 Grenville St., Toronto, ON M7A 2C1 Todd.Smithco@pc.ola.org

Re: Support of Ontario Government Quick Action on Ontario Energy Board Rulings

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, with our support of the Ontario Government to intervene on recommendations of the Ontario Energy Board of December 21, 2023 in regards to the Phase 1 - Enbridge Gas 2024 - 2028 application.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the economic prosperity and the quality of life for all in Chatham-Kent by championing business excellence, encouraging progressive infrastructure, fostering entrepreneurship and by integrating business and community wellness.

While recognizing the vision towards energy efficiencies in our province, we also note where reduced access to natural gas grid recommendations of the Ontario Energy Board will have dire effect on economic growth in our community, across Ontario and beyond. These recommendations will cause negative impacts to affordable, and all, housing developments, enhancements to our greenhouse industry and many other needed growth sectors. Beyond the direct effect this will have on business, the trickle effect of home purchasing, food costs - as examples - will be burdened on the general consumer, whom are already bearing budget constraints.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce commends the Ontario Government for their proposed actions to mitigate these negative recommendations and is pleased to provide our support of immediate action thereof.

We look forward to continuing our shared strengths and resources to enhance economic prosperity within our community, Ontario and country of Canada.

Yours in Prosper

Gail A.B. Hundt President & CEO

c.c. Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent Leamington

Ontario Energy Board