



BURLINGTON

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 25, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Premier,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, we strongly urge you and your government to reconsider any policy or prescriptive strategy within the forthcoming "Climate Change Action Plan" that would see or even suggest the elimination of natural gas as an affordable, clean and viable energy option for both Ontario residents and businesses.

Electricity costs in Ontario are already some of the highest in North America and are continually cited by our members as a barrier to competition. Furthermore, they are scheduled to rise significantly more in the coming years. This has already created a serious competitive challenge for Ontario businesses not just today but well into our future. By contrast, natural gas prices are lower now than they were 10 years ago. That fact cannot be ignored.

The shock over the suggested elimination of natural gas in Ontario that has reverberated throughout the province has thousands of homeowners concerned over the value and saleability of their homes that are equipped with natural gas furnaces and fireplaces. This, after they were advised for decades to convert to the more environmentally-friendly natural gas option.

Ontario businesses should be able to continue to choose natural gas without any negative consequences. We have long valued the reliability, affordability and sustainability of natural gas in Burlington and we should not be put in a position where our businesses are forced to replace it with more expensive electricity driven options. That dynamic would be bad for local business and disastrous for the provincial economy.

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce struggles 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. We also worry about the obvious pressure this policy would place



on existing electricity bills. Again, we urge you and your government to reconsider this ill-advised direction. Further, if there is actually no intent to eliminate natural gas by 2030, a public statement by the Premier confirming such is the only way Ontarians can be reassured their businesses and residences can remain viable in this Province.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KALL' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Keith Hoey, President & CEO
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Cowie' in a cursive style.

Heidi Cowie, Chair, Board of Directors
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Copies: The Board of Directors
MPP Eleanor McMahon
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change