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**It's great to have the chance to tour Vineland and see the research being done to promote a sustainable horticulture industry**

- Your new Collaborative Greenhouse Technology Centre demonstrates the innovative work you are doing
- Greenhouse production is an integral part of our changing agricultural industry — with controlled environments and large, consistent yields
- Our government wants to support this kind of innovative thinking that grows our province's economy and creates good jobs in agriculture

**And that means listening to your concerns**

- Through our red tape challenge we've heard about concerns over wastewater, and will be including some of this feedback in the Burden Reduction Act
- We're working with farmers to support the introduction of renewable natural gas, while also not banning natural gas
- As well, our climate change action plan includes opportunities for investment in low-carbon technologies for agriculture

**We've also heard about the cost of electricity for households and businesses**

- And we've already taken a number of steps to push these electricity rates down...
- We removed the Debt Retirement Charge from residential bills and starting April 1, 2018, the DRC will be removed from Commercial and Industrial bills
- Made electricity more affordable for low-income families through the Ontario Electricity Support Program ...
- Renegotiated the Green Energy Investment Agreement with Samsung...
- And phased out dirty, polluting coal-fired electricity in our province

**But the cost of building a clean and reliable energy grid after decades of neglect pushed hydro rates up**

- And even with these programs, the price of power continues to rise here, just as it has across Canada and around the world
- So we're taking more steps to help by rebating the provincial portion of HST on eligible residential, small business, and farm electricity bills
- That's an 8 per cent savings for millions of families, farms and small businesses every month

**Last week, Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault announced that we've decided to suspend IESO's large renewable energy procurement and the Energy From Waste standard offer program**

- Suspending the procurement of over 1,000 megawatts of new renewable energy and energy from waste projects
- This will remove up to \$3.8 billion in electricity system costs, relative to the 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) forecast
- We have built a clean and reliable electricity grid and now have enough energy supply to meet our needs
- As we look to the future, we will be reviewing the role of continued procurements as part of the next long-term energy plan set to begin later this fall
- This is expected to save up to \$3.8 billion in electricity system costs

**We know that the price of electricity is an important consideration for businesses looking to expand or invest**

- So we are also proposing to expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) — making an estimated 1000 new business eligible for significant savings
- The program encourages Ontario's largest electricity consumers to reduce consumption during peak periods to save up to one-third on their electricity bills.
- Reducing electricity bills for businesses by up to a third – and helping to reduce cost pressures on the electricity system by reducing peak demand.

**This expansion supports the kind of sustainable technology being developed at places like Vineland**