

Hansard: Pettapiece to Thibeault -- Hydro Affordability

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) <energynews@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <mei-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, Alexandra Campbell (IESO) <alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca>, Alexandria Anderson (OPG) <alexandria.anderson@opg.com>, Andrew Dow (IESO) <andrew.dow@ieso.ca>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <cheryl.carson@ontario.ca>, "Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY)" <daniel.cayley@ontario.ca>, Chuck Farmer <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, Donna Kinapen (OEB) <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@ontario.ca>, "Hill, Allyson (ENERGY)" <allyson.hill@ontario.ca>, "Ho, Larissa (ENERGY)" <larissa.ho@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY)" <serge.imbrogno@ontario.ca>, "Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY)" <patrick.imlay@ontario.ca>, Jane Leckey (IESO) <jane.leckey@ieso.ca>, John Bozzo (OEB) <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, John Cannella (IESO) <john.cannella@ieso.ca>, "Johnson, Paul (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <paul.johnson3@ontario.ca>, Jordan Penic (IESO) <jordan.penic@ieso.ca>, "Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <jennifer.kacaba@ontario.ca>, Karen Evans (OEB) <karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Landmann, Peter (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <peter.landmann@ontario.ca>, "Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY)" <arla.latto-hall@ontario.ca>, "Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY)" <chloe.lazakis@ontario.ca>, "Leung, Thomas (ENERGY)" <thomas.leung@ontario.ca>, "Lina Buccilli (Lina.Buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca)" <lina.buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY)" <ken.lindsay@ontario.ca>, "Linnington, Brenda (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <brenda.linnington@ontario.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>, "Major, Candace (ENERGY)" <candace.major@ontario.ca>, Mary Bernard (IESO) <mary.bernard@ieso.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (ENERGY)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Moulton, Dan (ENERGY)" <dan.moulton@ontario.ca>, "Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY)" <som.fatima.naveed@ontario.ca>, Neal Kelly (OPG) <neal.kelly@opg.com>, "Nelms, Scott (ENERGY)" <scott.nelms@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY)" <som.cheryl.o'donnell@ontario.ca>, "O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY)" <eamon.o'riordan@ontario.ca>, Paul Crawford (OEB) <paul.crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY)" <bryan.pelkey@ontario.ca>, "Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY)" <doreen.pitkeathly@ontario.ca>, "Poirier, Linda (ENERGY)" <linda.poirier@ontario.ca>, "Rehob, James (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <james.rehob@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, Richard Mackie (OPG) <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, Sandra Dykxhoorn <sandra.dykxhoorn@opg.com>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Shear, Dan (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <dan.shear@ontario.ca>, "Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY)" <valerie.simmons@ontario.ca>, "Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY)" <marlo.spencelair@ontario.ca>, "Spence, Marcia (ENERGY)" <marcia.spence@ontario.ca>,

"Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY)" <andrea.stoiko@ontario.ca>, "Sweet, Edward (ENERGY)" <edward.sweet@ontario.ca>, "Syed, Usman (ENERGY)" <usman.syed@ontario.ca>, Sylvia Kovesfalvi <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, Ted Gruetzner (OPG) <ted.gruetzner@opg.com>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, Terry Young (IESO) <terry.young@ieso.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, Tim Butters <tim.butters@ieso.ca>, "Todd, Brian (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <brian.todd@ontario.ca>, Tom Bergen (OPG) <tom.bergen@opg.com>, Vanda Wall (OEB) <vanda.wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY)" <vanessa.visheau@ontario.ca>, "Waddell, Colleen (ENERGY)" <colleen.waddell@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Xavier, Katrina (ENERGY)" <katrina.xavier@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>

Date: Wed, 26 Oct 2016 11:29:57 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Pettapiece: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of energy. When speaking about the mess his government has made of the energy file, the Minister refused to call it a crisis. My constituents disagree. In the Stratford condo building, bills have more than doubled. Their monthly global adjustment charge alone was over \$2,600. Another constituent got a bill for over \$100 for using no power at all. Their mother contacted me. She burst into tears and was terrified after learning rates could increase twice a year. I asked the Minister if this isn't a crisis, what is it?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A crisis is when you don't have a system that's unreliable and doesn't work, Mr. Speaker, and that's the system that they left for us, Mr. Speaker, that we had to pick up and take over, Mr. Speaker. That was the crisis. We understand on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, that there are some families that are having difficulty, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we brought forward the bill, Mr. Speaker, that's going to have an 8% reduction as of January 1st to help all families across the province, Mr. Speaker. We're very pleased that that bill passed last week because that will be something that's effectively going to help all families right across the province, families that on their homes, small farms, Mr. Speaker, and small businesses. We're happy to see that pass, Mr. Speaker, and we're also happy to see there's going to be that 20% reduction for 330 families across the province that live in rural or remote parts, Mr. Speaker. It's not just us saying that, Mr. Speaker. You know what? The C.E.O. Of the Ontario chamber of commerce says the announcement that we made is a very significant one for residents, small industry and it's the most important group that will be able to benefit from this, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Pettapiece: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, that's not fooling anyone. Neither is this government's multimillion-dollar advertising. They told us the Ontario electricity support program would help those who need it but they didn't make the benefits automatic. Instead they forced people to apply. Why? Because the Liberals, as usual, wanted maximum political benefit. This way they could waste almost \$12 million on consultants, publications, media and advertising. That includes \$9 million to line the pockets of Liberal-friendly consultants. Meanwhile many can't afford to keep the furnace running. That, sir, is a disgrace. Will the Minister explain to my constituent why this government is using their money to sell such a scam?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess he doesn't understand the whole concept about the Canada revenue agency, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that we work with the federal government on this, like you're mandated to do and we do, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House.

In terms of the money that we're spending on this, Mr. Speaker, we're very proud on this side of the House that \$21 million has been spent so far, providing support to 145,000 families in ten months, Mr. Speaker. In fact we've got another 14,000 families that are signing up for this program every month, Mr. Speaker. We want more. We have a budget of \$225 million, Mr. Speaker, to help families right across the province, Mr. Speaker. The unfortunate thing, Mr. Speaker, is on that side of the House they don't talk about this program because they know it will help families, Mr. Speaker. What they like to do is just make up some numbers, Mr. Speaker. We talk about making sure that we're starting up a program that's helping 145,000 families, Mr. Speaker. We want more families to sign up and that's why we continue to talk about it and advertise it on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker .

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.