

Hansard: Smith to Thibeault -- Hydro 25% Reduction Plan

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) <energynews@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Anderson, Alexandria (OPG)" <alexandria.anderson@opg.com>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Bergen, Tom (OPG)" <tom.bergen@opg.com>, "Bernard, Mary (IESO)" <mary.bernard@ieso.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, "Bozzo, John (OEB)" <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Buccilli, Lina (OEB)" <lina.buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Butters, Tim (IESO)" <tim.butters@ieso.ca>, "Campbell, Alexandra (IESO)" <alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Cannella, John (IESO)" <john.cannella@ieso.ca>, "Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <cheryl.carson@ontario.ca>, "Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY)" <daniel.cayley@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Crawford, Paul (OEB)" <paul.crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, "Dow, Andrew (IESO)" <andrew.dow@ieso.ca>, "Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG)" <sandra.dykxhoorn@opg.com>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Evans, Karen (OEB)" <karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Farmer, Chuck (IESO)" <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@ontario.ca>, "Gruetzner, Ted (OPG)" <ted.gruetzner@opg.com>, "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>, "Johnson, Paul (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <paul.johnson3@ontario.ca>, "Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY)" <jennifer.kacaba@ontario.ca>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, "Kelly, Neal (OPG)" <neal.kelly@opg.com>, "Kinapen, Donna (OEB)" <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB)" <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Landmann, Peter (ENERGY)" <peter.landmann@ontario.ca>, "Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY)" <arla.latto-hall@ontario.ca>, "Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY)" <chloe.lazakis@ontario.ca>, "Leckey, Jane (IESO)" <jane.leckey@ieso.ca>, "Leung, Thomas (MOF)" <thomas.leung@ontario.ca>, "Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY)" <ken.lindsay@ontario.ca>, "Linington, Brenda (MOI)" <brenda.linington@ontario.ca>, "Mackie, Richard (OPG)" <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Moulton, Dan (ENERGY)" <dan.moulton@ontario.ca>, "Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY)" <som.fatima.naveed@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Nelms, Scott (MOF)" <scott.nelms@ontario.ca>, "O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY)" <som.cheryl.o'donnell@ontario.ca>, "O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY)" <eamon.o'riordan@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY)" <bryan.pelkey@ontario.ca>, "Penic, Jordan (IESO)" <jordan.penic@ieso.ca>, "Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY)" <doreen.pitkeathly@ontario.ca>, "Poirier, Linda (ENERGY)" <linda.poirier@ontario.ca>, "Rehob,

James (ENERGY)" <james.rehob@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Shear, Dan (ENERGY)" <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>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Todd, Brian (MOI)" <brian.todd@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY)" <vanessa.visheau@ontario.ca>, "Waddell, Colleen (MOF)" <colleen.waddell@ontario.ca>, "Wall, Vanda (OEB)" <vanda.wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>, "Young, Terry (IESO)" <terry.young@ieso.ca>

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: My question is for the **Premier**. Thanks to this morning's Liberal scheme, we know Ontarians are going to be on the hook for another 42 billion dollars in brand new interest costs in Ontario. The **Premier** said this morning she can't even guarantee long-term relief for ratepayers. That's because they're pushing even more of these expensive fit contracts onto the grid tomorrow. These are the same types of contracts that got us in this mess in the first place. Speaker, if you're spending 42 billion dollars of today's money to pay for yesterday's mistake, how much more will we have to pay for the mistakes you're about to make tomorrow?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Honourable member hasn't actually really looked at the plan because he would then understand that what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker, is 25 billion dollars over 30 years. We're making sure one generation does not pay for something that will be used by many generations. We're off-loading the costs and making sure everyone will pay their fair share. We're making the system fair, Mr. Speaker. 25% reduction right across the board for every ratepayer, Mr. Speaker. But I know, Mr. Speaker, he keeps talking about our fit contracts and all about contracts he likes to frame. Yesterday when he was talking on cfra's show in Ottawa, out of his mouth, Mr. Speaker, he said ripping up these contracts would come at a huge cost to taxpayers. We agree. Mr. Speaker, we are making sure that we have a fair system in place, Mr. Speaker. One that's helping 25% reduction right across the province.

>> MPP Smith: On a radio interview a couple of weeks ago, the energy Minister called London listeners dumb. 42 billion dollars in new interest costs. The big power company who gave 1.3 million dollars aren't going to be out of a dime. 64% of the costs come from generators. Guess who is not going to be affected. Their Liberal friends. The generators will not be affected. A bunch of them are getting new approvals for plans tomorrow to build more of these things. 6 times the **Premier** said she made a mistake. If you keep doing the same thing, it's negligent. It's been negligence from this government for years now. Will the government fix the underlying problem. Or are we going to continue robbing Peter's grand kids to pay Paul's grand kids.

>> It's actually this government that's making sure we look after Peter's grandparents and grand kids by reducing rates and eliminating coal. They forget about that. The reductions we have made to ensure that we make sure that our children have clean air to breathe. That's something they never worried about, Mr. Speaker. They actually left the system in Tatters. When they're talking

about renewable energy, they completely forget about 42,000 jobs that were created in this sector. They forget about billions and billions of dollars that were made in investing in this province. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we have now brought forward a plan that will make sure that we have an affordable system, a clean system, and we have a green system, something that is the envy of not only this country but the world.

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