

Hansard: Tabuns to Matthews (Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate 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>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.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>, "Cooper, Sarah (ENERGY)" <sarah.cooper@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 (ENERGY)" <karen.evans@ontario.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>, "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>, "Lars Hansen" <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.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>, "Linnington, Brenda (MOI)" <brenda.linnington@ontario.ca>, "Mackie, Richard (OPG)" <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF)" <kaitlin.montgomery@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>

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, my question to the acting **Premier**. It's been 6 days since the Liberals announced they would refinance an increasingly privatized hydro system, adding billions of dollars in new debt for customers and leaving fat profits for already profitable multinational energy companies. New Democrats said it then and we'll say it now. The government can't expect to table legislation that will make massive changes to the hydro system that are bad for people and businesses and expect to ram it through this legislature with little or no opportunity for public input. With just 12 sitting days left, why haven't we seen a bill?

>> Minister Matthews: I will pass the supplementary onto the Minister of energy but I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that on Friday the Speaker announced he will not be seeking reelection in 2018, and I want to just say to you, Speaker, that I want to say thank you for the work you have done in this legislature and in your community. You've been a real inspiration for all of us.

>> MPP Tabuns: Speaker, again to the acting **Premier**. People deserve to see the Liberal plan in black and white so they can debate it and so legislature can debate it too. Don't hide the details. Don't delay. Don't come to the legislature just before it rises this summer with a last-minute bill, ultimatum and no time for committees, experts and the people of Ontario to take the time they need to examine the bill. That was NDP Leader Andrea Horwath almost two months ago. There is still no plan, no legislation, and the House is scheduled to rise in 12 sitting days. This is exactly what we warned about. Is the government going to try and ram through a hydro bill and shut out the politics with no time to hear from the people of Ontario?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased to rise and talk about the fair hydro plan that we've been talking about for the last two months, Mr. Speaker, and letting people know that they're going to be saving, Mr. Speaker, up to on average 25% on their bills. Some will be higher, Mr. Speaker, and especially for those that live in the rural or remote parts of our province, northern Ontario, Mr. Speaker. They can see up to 40 and 50% coming off their bills. And, Mr. Speaker, the O.E.B., the Ontario energy board, recognized that in anticipation of us bringing forward this legislation, they brought forward on May 1st an additional 9% reduction, meaning we're seeing a 17% reduction on our bills compared to last year, Mr. Speaker, right now. And I know that's hard for the opposition to understand, Mr. Speaker, because one of them has no plan. And the other plan that they have doesn't make sense, Mr. Speaker. This is something that's active and working, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Tabuns: Speaker, the Liberal plan will add \$40 billion in debt. It will double down on private contracts. This is a big deal. And Ontarians want their voices to be heard. This bill should be debated. It should have committee hearings. The committee should travel, and people should get their say. Is the government -- Is the government getting ready to ram through their hydro bill without real debate, real examination and real public input?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So let's talk about real. 25% reduction is a real relief for families across the province, Mr. Speaker. 40 to 50% reduction on rural or remote rate protection plans. That's real relief coming to families in the rural parts of our province, Mr. Speaker. 500,000 businesses. That's 500,000 real small businesses and farms. They will also see the 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker. But let's talk about unreal, Mr. Speaker, not realistic, Mr. Speaker. That's their plan, Mr. Speaker, that they don't even talk about anymore. They forgot that they brought forward a plan. Probably, Mr. Speaker, because it's not a plan that will bring any real relief to families across this province. Our Ontario fair hydro plan. Will bring real relief for families.

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