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Ms. Jennifer French, MPP
Room 185, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A5

Dear Ms. French:

Thank you for your letter regarding hydro rates. I appreciate your sharing with me community feedback from your constituents.

Over the past decade, Ontario electricity consumers have helped cover the costs associated with removing dirty coal-fired generation from our electricity system. While the move to cleaner energy has saved more than \$4 billion a year in health and other costs associated with smog and pollution from coal, we recognize that the result has been increased costs. My colleagues and I have listened to and have heard these concerns. We understand that electricity costs have stretched family budgets.

This fall, we passed legislation, the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016, that will reduce electricity costs by 8 per cent on the amount before tax, an average savings of about \$130 annually or \$11 each month, for about five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses, as of January 1, 2017.

Further, on November 8, 2016, my colleagues announced the launch of a new Ontario program to help small- and medium-sized businesses reduce emissions and become more energy efficient.

Commented [m1]: Text drawn from news release, <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2016/11/helping-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-with-energy-efficient-upgrades.html>

The SMART Green program, a partnership between the government and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, is designed to assist businesses to invest in equipment and process upgrades. Ontario is investing \$25 million from the Green Investment Fund for the SMART Green program. Qualifying businesses will receive grants of up to \$200,000 to cover up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

Upgrades will improve the competitiveness of Ontario's small- and medium-sized manufacturers, help to reduce their energy consumption, save them money, and help Ontario meet its targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Partnering with small-

and medium-sized businesses to fight climate change is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

I have also forwarded your correspondence to the attention of my colleague the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy, so that he may be aware of your constituents' views, and asked that he respond with information on support programs being offered.

Thank you again for writing to me. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Glenn Thibeault

Commented [m2]: Added text to reply and amended closing line directing letter to attention of Ministry of ENG.

Commented [H3]: The response should be more substantive. We can include language from our template response.

It isn't necessary to include that Minister Thibeault's response will focus on the support programs that are offered. That note was so the correspondence unit in ENG would be aware of what we would like their response to look like.

Please send back for approval before it is sent out.

Thanks

Commented [m4]: Personal signature