

Hansard: Brown to Premier -- Energy Management

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the **Premier**. According to innovative research group poll results that were highlighted in the "National post", the people of Ontario have never been so angry and why, Mr. Speaker, are they angry? Maybe it's because this government has lost \$6 billion giving energy away to places like New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Maybe it's because according to the auditor general, between 2006 and 2014. The people of Ontario have been overcharged \$37 billion for electricity and global adjustment fees. Maybe it's because this government has overpaid \$9.2 billion for renewable contracts while the Liberal party took \$1.3 million in donations from 30 companies. There's a lot of reasons why the people of Ontario would be angry but, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the **Premier** why do you think the people of Ontario are so angry at your energy policy?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, let me once again talk about what has happened in this province on electricity generation, Mr. Speaker. We inherited an electricity system that was badly degraded, Mr. Speaker. It was dirty. The grid was dirty, Mr. Speaker. We were plagued with Brownouts and blackouts, smog -- We took that dirty unreliable system, Mr. Speaker, and we cleaned it, Mr. Speaker. We invested in it. We now have an electricity system that is 90% renewable, Mr. Speaker. Cutting -- shutting down of the coal-fired plants in this province, investment in a renewable industry, Mr. Speaker, was -- The single largest reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in North America. We're proud of that, Mr. Speaker. We've done away with smog days.

>> **Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, back to the **Premier**. Last night CTV's Paul bliss broke a shocking story. Hydro One has been Collecting money specifically to pay for equipment they deemed very high risk for failure. But Paul bliss learned that there are still 111 transformers that are in dire need of repair. So much for the **Premier's** talking points on reliability. For years this government has been approving rate increases, then failing to fix transformers. They're not bringing reliability to our system. So my question is what did that money go for. It was supposed to be for repairs. Was it use today pay the \$4 million salaries you approved for the C.E.O.S? Was it the \$24 million the **Premier** approved for the new executive members? Because certainly wasn't going to fix the transformers. So, Mr. Speaker. Why has the **Premier** allowed either one to raise rates but not fix the system?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I know, I know that the Minister of energy is going to want to speak in the final supplementary but, Mr. Speaker, let me just say and we have visitors here from California and from Québec with whom we are partnering, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause] We are partnering to continue to -- greenhouse gas emissions.

[Applause] For our visitors and our partners to hear, to hear the rhetoric from the other side, Mr. Speaker, from people who don't, who don't support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, who don't support the changes made to make our grid a clean electricity grid, to do away with smog days,

Mr. Speaker, to reduce pollution in the air. They don't support that, Mr. Speaker, but the reality is we are steadfast. We are going to continue to invest in our electricity system. We are going to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emission and work with enlightened jurisdictions like Québec and –

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the **Premier**. I can understand why the **Premier** would reference Québec being here today. They should be here thanking Ontario because this **Premier** has been giving away Ontario electricity, sometimes even paying Québec to take it because of the contracts that this **Premier** signed in return for Liberal party donation. So, Mr. Speaker, back to the **Premier**. I received an e-mail -- Mr. Speaker, what do these reckless energy policies mean for people? I received an e-mail to my Simcoe North constituency office for Mary. She is a member of the Canadian forces and a single parent of two children. She sacrificed a lot to serve her country but because of this government's hydro policies she now has to choose which bill she won't pay each month so she can keep the lights on. She has cancelled her cable and phone. And all of her kids' extra-curriculars. Mr. Speaker, she is now saying she has to leave Ontario. She's asking for a different posting. My question to the **Premier** is why are you doing this?

>> **Premier** Wynne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and just want to say that we understand that there are people in the province who are having trouble paying their electricity bills. We understand that, Mr. Speaker, which is exactly why in the throne speech we introduced an initiative that will take the provincial portion of the H.S.T. Off people's electricity bills for rural communities, Mr. Speaker, another 12% reduction up to 20% reduction on their bills, Mr. Speaker, and expand the industrial conservation initiative to help businesses to deal with their electricity bills. We understand that, Mr. Speaker. We know that people need support which is why we have a range of programs in place. But, Mr. Speaker, the investments that we have made in our electricity system to make it clean, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The opposition says we haven't made investments. We most certainly have made investments, Mr. Speaker. Over 10,000 kilometres of line. We've made those investments -- Under the table with **Premiers** from across the country and I know that it is in the best interests of the people of Ontario that we work with Québec, that we work with Manitoba, that we sign agreements and we find ways to share power, Mr. Speaker, which is exactly what we're doing to an unprecedented level, Mr. Speaker .

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