



**Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich**

The Corporation of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

March 2, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Minister Glenn Thibeault
Ministry of Energy
900 Bay Street, 4th Floor
Hearst Block
Toronto ON
M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Thibeault:

I am writing again on the behalf of the citizens of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich in Elgin County to request the cancellation of Invenergy's proposed *Strong Breeze* industrial wind turbine (IWT) project in our municipality, specifically with regards to the high hydro rates that are having severe impacts on our citizens and businesses.

In September 2016, it was announced that LRP II would be cancelled:

"Over the course of the last decade, Ontario has rebuilt our electricity system and secured a strong supply of clean power. Our decision to suspend these procurements is not one we take lightly. This decision will both maintain system reliability and save up to \$3.8 billion in electricity system costs relative to the 2013 LTEP forecast. The typical residential electricity consumer would save an average of approximately \$2.45 per month on their electricity bill, relative to previous forecasts. As we prepare for a renewed LTEP, we will continue to plan for our future and ensure Ontario benefits from clean, reliable and affordable power for decades to come." (Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault, September 27, 2016).

On March 2, 2017, a 25% cut in Ontario electricity bills was announced:

"Starting this summer, *Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan* would provide households with this per cent break. Many small businesses and farms would also benefit from the initiative... Recently, electricity rates have risen for two key reasons:

- Decades of under-investment in the electricity system by governments of all stripes resulted in the need to invest more than \$50 billion in generation, transmission and distribution assets to ensure the system is clean and reliable.

- The decision to eliminate Ontario's use of coal and produce clean, renewable power, as well as policies put in place to provide targeted support to rural and low-income customers, have created additional costs.
- The burden of financing these system improvements and funding key programs has unfairly fallen almost entirely on the shoulders of today's ratepayers...Reducing electricity costs is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.” (Office of the Premier, March 2, 2017).

As the cancellation of LRP II is expected to save money for the province and for individual ratepayers, the cancellation of LRP I projects not yet in commercial operation, as permitted by the LRP I contract at minimal cost, would do so as well. As you stated in your directive to the President and CEO of the IESO on December 16, 2016, you have the “capacity as the Minister of Energy in order to exercise the statutory power ... to amend or revoke continued directions issued to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) under the Electricity Act, 1998”. As a result of this and the current plans to reduce hydro costs for Ontario ratepayers, I ask you to cancel the *Strong Breeze* Project and other projects in LRP I immediately. I am concerned that rising electricity costs are negatively impacting individuals and businesses in my rural community and in Ontario, as I detailed in my last letter to you on December 6, 2016.

Given the high cost of hydro in Ontario as a result of unnecessary power procurement, and the Ontario government's concern about these costs, I applaud the government for making the decision to cancel LRP II and to reduce hydro bills, but I also request that the *Strong Breeze* Project be cancelled immediately in order to save the province and citizens money.

I look forward to hearing from you concerning this urgent matter.

Yours very truly,



Cameron McWilliam
Mayor

Cc: Premier Kathleen Wynne