

Re: Estimates

From: "Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)" </o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kwamena, boafoa (cab)e41">
To: "Farrow, Alicia (CAB)" <alicia.farrow@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2017 10:21:24 -0400

Merci

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Farrow, Alicia (CAB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 10:20 AM
To: Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)
Subject: FW: Estimates

You may have already seen this but wanted to send along.

From: Colford, Jonathan (CAB)
Sent: October-24-17 9:35 AM
To: McMichael, Rhonda (CAB); Covelli, Mary Anne (CAB); Farrow, Alicia (CAB); Brown, Kyle (CAB)
Cc: Pontikis, Maria (CAB); @CAB-Issues
Subject: Estimates

Good morning,
The Estimates committee defeated MPP Peter Tabuns' motion requesting documents related to the Fair Hydro Plan.

Motion: "Pursuant to standing order 110 b), the Standing Committee on Estimates directs the Ministry of Energy, the independent electricity system operator, the Ontario Energy Board, and Ontario Power Generation, to produce within 10 business days all documents, including all electronic and digital correspondence, related to the government's Fair Hydro Plan; and that the request for documents includes any and all related documents, including all electronic or digital correspondence received or sent by the Minister of Energy and the Minister's Office, and that all documents be provided in searchable PDF format." (*N.B.: transcribed from the hearing – punctuation mine*).

Debate:

MPP Tabuns said this situation is "analogous" to the cancellation of the Oakville and Mississauga gas plants noting "in this case the people of Ontario are being charged four billion dollars to make the books look good in an attempt to increase the Liberal Party's performance in the next provincial election."

MPP Sophie Kiwala said she thinks the Minister of Energy has been very clear and forthcoming about the documents released to the Auditor General and has provided a lot of information throughout this week and last. She said he noted that the government is absolutely committed to being open and transparent and will continue to cooperate with the Office of the Auditor General.

She listed numbers of documents released to the AG's office by the above entities and that the ministry has committed to providing all additional records to the AG's office by Nov. 1. She said the government doesn't see merit to the motion.

MPP Michael Harris echoed MPP Tabuns' analogy to the gas plants, noting it's "déjà-vu" compared to 2012 – the only difference being that the opposition outnumbered the government in committee and could obtain the documents.

MPP Tabuns said it's the duty of the Estimates committee to review the material and "present to the people of Ontario what in fact is being purchased with their money – and what's being purchased is an opportunity to look good in campaign ads next year." He sought a recorded vote for the motion.

MPP Kiwala said it's very clear that families in the province were asking for real and immediate relief. The government made a policy choice to have a clean and reliable and affordable system for the ratepayers of today and tomorrow. The FHP keeps the cost of borrowing within the rate base and not the tax base because it's the logical thing to do. Electricity financing should remain within the electricity system. She also noted the plan was "approved by the peers of the Auditor General at some of Canada's top accounting firms." The government also consulted with numerous third-party advisors on the application of accounting standards: IESO's management, IESO's audit committee, IESO's board of directors, IESO's external auditor and the Office of the Provincial Controller "all support this accounting treatment."

MPP Tabuns said that the Auditor General is "the custodian of accounting standards in this province." He noted the AG is independent, and that she had the former head of the public sector accounting board at her press conference to confirm that what the government is doing is outside public sector accounting standards.