

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) [energynews@ontario.ca]
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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]; Mary Bernard [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7e3e3e8d7f9345c2b0aab3e0fd7a79f2-Mary Bernar]; 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]; Tim Butters [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51a65d6ed8cf46629b4c4226b8a7033f-Tim Butters]; Alexandra Campbell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1277e2d9ffd4c598e3819f291200a35-Alexandra C]; Campbell, David (ENERGY) [David.Campbell2@ontario.ca]; John Cannella [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd667c6d53774dd0a749783bb02ae89d-John Cannel]; 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]; David Barrett [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ef6f3b035ceb494099260e6fa7603f36-David Barre]; Andrew Dow [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6268b334c119488b888395bba8b155d9-Andrew Dow]; Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG) [Sandra.Dykxhoorn@opg.com]; Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY) [Trevor.Esdaile@ontario.ca]; Evans, Karen (ENERGY) [Karen.Evans@ontario.ca]; Chuck Farmer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aa83ad66edf341b4a48c3f852b674355-Chuck Farme]; Feather, Adam (ENERGY) [Adam.Feather@ontario.ca]; Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY) [Diana.Gibbs@ontario.ca]; Gruetzner, Ted (OPG) [Ted.Gruetzner@opg.com]; 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]; Jane Leckey [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2d516eef12b444edaca0ee56126664b3-Jane Leckey]; Leung, Thomas (MOF) [Thomas.Leung@ontario.ca]; Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY) [Ken.Lindsay@ontario.ca]; Linington, Brenda (MOI) [Brenda.Linington@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]; Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY) [Colin.Nikolaichuk@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]; Jordan Penic [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d23bcd450594583bb40b447b35485da-Jordan Peni]; Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY) [Doreen.Pitkeathly@ontario.ca]; Poirier, Linda (ENERGY) [Linda.Poirier@ontario.ca]; Rehob, James (ENERGY) [James.Rehob@ontario.ca]; Reid, Michael (ENERGY) [Michael.Reid@ontario.ca]; Rowe, Jennifer (OPG) [Jennifer.Rowe@opg.com]; Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY) [Craig.Ruttan@ontario.ca]; Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY) [Kaili.Sermat-Harding@ontario.ca]; Shear, Dan (ENERGY) [Dan.Shear@ontario.ca]; Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY) [Valerie.Simmons@ontario.ca]; Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY) [Marlo.SpenceLair@ontario.ca]; Spence, Marcia (ENERGY) [Marcia.Spence@ontario.ca]; Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY) [Andrea.Stoiko@ontario.ca]; Sweet, Edward (ENERGY) [Edward.Sweet@ontario.ca]; Syed, Usman (ENERGY) [Usman.Syed@ontario.ca]; Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY) [Andrew.Teliszewsky@ontario.ca]; Thompson, Erin (ENERGY) [Erin.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY) [Rachel.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Todd, Brian (MOI) [Brian.Todd@ontario.ca]; Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY) [Ilia.Tretiakov@ontario.ca]; Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY) [Vanessa.Visheau@ontario.ca]; Waddell, Colleen (MOF) [Colleen.Waddell@ontario.ca]; Wall, Vanda (OEB) [Vanda.Wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Whittington, Matt

(ENERGY) [Matt.Whittington@ontario.ca]; Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY) [Lindsay.Wright@ontario.ca]; Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY) [Saurabh.Yadav@ontario.ca]; Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]; Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY) [Martin.Schlaepfer@ontario.ca]; Smith, Gillian (ENERGY) [Gillian.Smith@ontario.ca]; Kuppuswami, Kritika (MOF) [Kritika.Kuppuswami@ontario.ca]

Subject: Hansard: Horwath to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro Advertising

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, my question's for the **Premier**. The **Premier** recently put forward a new law that will force all electricity companies to include her political messaging with hydro bills right up until the next election. In fact her regulation contains the exact messaging that she plans to force the companies to use. How can this **Premier** justify the shameless self promotion at the expense of everyday families in Ontario?

>> **Premier** Wynne: Well, Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of energy is going to want to speak to the details of this. Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that even the leader of the third party would like to see everyone who's eligible receive the reduction that they are -- that they're eligible for, that they're entitled to. That they're entitled to. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the leader of the third party knows, because she's been talking about it in this legislature for weeks, Mr. Speaker, she knows that people need that relief on their hydro bills. She knows, Mr. Speaker, people need that 25% reduction. She knows, Mr. Speaker, that, in rural and remote communities, that people need even more than that because distribution charges are so high. So, Mr. Speaker, I know that the leader of the third party supports a reduction, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of energy will speak to the details in the bill.

>> Andrea Horwath: People are going to get it regardless of partisan advertising in their bills or not. So why is the **Premier** doing that? Electricity companies to do the **Premier's** dirty work by trying to sell the people of Ontario on her \$45 billion hydro borrowing scheme. This is a new low, Speaker, in political manipulation at the expense of Ontario families, who are already struggling to just keep up with their skyrocketing bills, Speaker. Is this **Premier** so desperate to save her political skin that she is going to force families to pay for her own partisan advertising?

>> Minister Thibeault :Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise and talk about our fair hydro plan, because I find it interesting from the questioning from the leader of the third party. Just last week, Mr. Speaker, when I was in Sault Ste. Marie and when I spoke with Steve and Lucy, who own the m&ms and the other country style doughnuts that the leader of the opposition spoke to, I thought it very interesting that they didn't know about the fair hydro plan. They didn't know about the benefits that they were going to be getting when the fair hydro plan passes, Mr. Speaker. But it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the leader of the third party chose not to tell them about the plan. She chose not to tell them about all of the things that will be coming, Mr. Speaker. So you know what we're doing, Mr. Speaker ? We're going to ensure that we -- I know, Mr. Speaker, that we have one party that doesn't have a plan. We have a new party. We'd like to hear what that new party will have to say. And then from the third party, Mr. Speaker, they don't even talk about their plan any more. We will ensure. That we talk about our plan so everybody in this province knows that they'll be getting 25% off before summer.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, everybody in Ontario will be shocked when they see their bill. They'll be shocked to learn that they're now paying for the Liberals' advertising to be delivered right to their doorstep. By law, Speaker, because the Liberals are putting it in legislation, in regulation. To put the advertising for that party into people's bills. People expected so much better from this **Premier**. But time and time again, they have been let down. Instead of forcing electricity companies to advertise her borrowing scheme, had the Liberal **Premier** instead put her energy into coming up with a plan that helps people instead of helping her political party and herself?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 800,000 families in this province will see a 40 to 50% reduction thank you

to the **Premier** and this government bringing forward legislation, Mr. Speaker, that will help families. Every single House hold in this province, Mr. Speaker. 500,000 small businesses and farms. They will receive a 25% reduction on average, Mr. Speaker, come summer when we can get this legislation passed. But what really is bothersome, Mr. Speaker, is last week the NDP Confirmed that they would repeal the fair hydro plan. The admission courtesy of the candidate in Sault Ste. Marie and that comes as a shock to everyone. We talk about the need to help families with the cost of electricity. But when we could have supported the plan to cut bills by 25% for those low incomes between 40 and 50? You know what they said, Mr. Speaker ? As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, you know what they said, Mr. Speaker ? No.

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