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Subject: Hansard: Smith to Thibeault -- Hydro Rates Small Bussiness

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: Thank you, Speaker. Good morning and happy birthday. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy **Premier** this morning. Big trouble for G.T.A. Employer kitsco Freezies has more than 200 employees here in Toronto that saw their hydro bill go up \$100,000 last year. \$100,000. According to their president, they don't qualify for the government's hydro scheme. He said, quote -- we get nothing back. We pay and we pay. Speaker, how many more jobs is this Liberal government going to chase out of Ontario before they do something for our job creators?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise and talk about our plan, Mr. Speaker, the one that's actually going to help 500,000 small businesses and farms right across the province, Mr. Speaker. And let's not forget, too, the Minister of economic development and I were just in brampton this morning talking about how another company is going to be saving 20%, Mr. Speaker, \$2 million on their electricity bills. And all of this, Mr. Speaker, is part of our Ontario fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, a plan that is actually going to be put into effect by this summer, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can help everyone right across the province. Unlike the party opposite, Mr. Speaker, that has no plan. We heard that they once had a five-point plan and then a 3-point plan. And now, Mr. Speaker, they have no plan. No plan for hydro. No plan for Ontario, Mr. Speaker. We are the government that acts and helps businesses.

>>Minister Smith: Speaker, this is the government that has bungled this file like no other file that we have ever seen. And they have the audacity to stand here and expect us to clean tup for them. Their plan has so many holes in it, it's like Swiss cheese, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, kitsco Freezies creates jobs here in Ontario. Create jobs with their suppliers as well. They source their corrugated containers, their plastic and most of their supplies right here in Ontario. But their C.E.O. Told global new this is week more and more businesses are going to pack up and move to the United States. We know there is a coalition -- Manufacturers in Ontario hanging on by a thread. So why doesn't your latest scheme help fix that for those employers here in Ontario?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very, very pleased to rise and talk about that specific company. They qualify now, Mr. Speaker, thanks to our program because 600 kilowatts of power. We confirmed with elektra, their electric company, that they qualify for the I.P.I. Program. So we have a plan that's help businesses. They have no plan, Mr. Speaker. They're too busy writing hockey policy and not worrying about the people of Ontario. We are worried about the people of Ontario. We are making sure that we are addressing this issue, Mr. Speaker, and helping these businesses. We're building infrastructure. The 427, Mr. Speaker, the MPP From Vaughan the Minister of transportation is working hard that this business will see access to this. We're making sure they've got access to the I.P.I. Program, Mr. Speaker. They can keep talking about hockey policy. We'll keep working for tor people of Ontario.

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

