

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]; Alexandra Day (Alexandra.Day@oeb.ca) [Alexandra.Day@oeb.ca]; Anderson, Alexandria (OPG) [alexandria.anderson@opg.com]; Andrew Bodrug (Andrew.Bodrug@oeb.ca) [Andrew.Bodrug@oeb.ca]; Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY) [Hillary.Armstrong@ontario.ca]; Berry, James (ENERGY) [James.Berry5@ontario.ca]; Bozzo, John (OEB) [John.Bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Brayden Akers (brayden.akers@opg.com) [brayden.akers@opg.com]; 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]; 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]; Cotter, Adam (ENERGY) [Adam.Cotter@ontario.ca]; Crawford, Paul (OEB) [Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; christine.dade@ontario.ca [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=af90ebb6c6a042628b39c52ab28116f7-christine.d]; David Barrett [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ef6f3b035ceb494099260e6fa7603f36-David Barre]; Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY) [Kevin.DenHeijer@ontario.ca]; Dmitriev, Constantine (ENERGY) [Constantine.Dmitriev@ontario.ca]; Andrew Dow [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6268b334c119488b888395bba8b155d9-Andrew Dow]; Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG) [Sandra.Dykxhoorn@opg.com]; Elvira Palermo (Elvira.Palermo@oeb.ca) [Elvira.Palermo@oeb.ca]; Chuck Farmer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aa83ad66edf341b4a48c3f852b674355-Chuck Farme]; Feather, Adam (ENERGY) [SOM.Adam.Feather@ontario.ca]; Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY) [Diana.Gibbs@ontario.ca]; Greenwood, Dorin (ENERGY) [SOM.2Dorin.Greenwood@ontario.ca]; Gruetznier, Ted (OPG) [Ted.Gruetznier@opg.com]; Ho, Larissa (ENERGY) [Larissa.Ho@ontario.ca]; Hume, Steen (ENERGY) [Steen.Hume@ontario.ca]; Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY) [Serge.Imbrogno@ontario.ca]; Johnson, Paul (ENERGY) [Paul.Johnson3@ontario.ca]; Joseph Rosa (Joseph.Rosa@oeb.ca) [Joseph.Rosa@oeb.ca]; June Too [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8051edaacf1040fea3aa2ec81f56bf72-June Too]; Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY) [Jennifer.Kacaba@ontario.ca]; Karen Evans (Karen.Evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca) [Karen.Evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Karpazis, Pauline (ENERGY) [Pauline.Karpazis@ontario.ca]; Kate Longmoore [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c7edab7b7ff941b79736d9f0bcff3464-Kate Longmo]; Kelly, Neal (OPG) [Neal.Kelly@opg.com]; Kinapen, Donna (OEB) [Donna.Kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; King, Catriona [Catriona.King@OPG.com]; Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY) [Matthew.Kitchen@ontario.ca]; Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB) [Sylvia.Kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Kuppuswami, Kritika (MOF) [Kritika.Kuppuswami@ontario.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]; Brown, Liam (ENERGY) [Liam.Brown2@ontario.ca]; Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY) [Ken.Lindsay@ontario.ca]; Linington, Brenda (MOI) [Brenda.Linington@ontario.ca]; Mandy Usprech (Mandy.Usprech@oeb.ca) [Mandy.Usprech@oeb.ca]; Martine Band (Martine.Band@oeb.ca) [Martine.Band@oeb.ca]; Michelle Gregoire (Michelle.Gregoire@oeb.ca) [Michelle.Gregoire@oeb.ca]; Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF) [Kaitlin.Montgomery@ontario.ca]; Murray, Maud (ENERGY/MEDG/MRIS/MOI) [Maud.Murray3@ontario.ca]; Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY) [Colin.Nikolaichuk@ontario.ca]; Nelms, Scott (MOF) [Scott.Nelms@ontario.ca]; Nucciarone, Michael (ENERGY) [Michael.Nucciarone@ontario.ca]; OGBORNE Shawn - STAKEREL [shawn.ogborne@opg.com]; O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY) [Eamon.O'Riordan@ontario.ca]; Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY) [Bryan.Pelkey@ontario.ca]; Jordan Penic [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d23bcd450594583bb40b447b35485da-Jordan Peni]; Perkins, Michael (ENERGY) [Michael.Perkins@ontario.ca]; Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY) [Doreen.Pitkeathly@ontario.ca]; Poirier, Linda (ENERGY) [Linda.Poirier@ontario.ca]; Rehob, James (ENERGY) [James.Rehob@ontario.ca]; Reid, Michael (ENERGY) [SOM.Michael.Reid@ontario.ca]; Riar, Subhraj (ENERGY) [Subhraj.Riar@ontario.ca]; Rowe, Jennifer (OPG)

[Jennifer.Rowe@opg.com]; Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY) [Martin.Schlaepfer@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]; Smith, Brett (ENERGY) [Brett.Smith@ontario.ca]; Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY) [SOM1.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]; Tara Brautigam (Tara.Brautigam@oeb.ca) [Tara.Brautigam@oeb.ca]; Thompson, Erin (ENERGY) [Erin.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY) [Rachel.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Thouin, Alena (ENERGY) [Alena.Thouin@ontario.ca]; Todd, Brian (MOI) [Brian.Todd@ontario.ca]; Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY) [Ilia.Tretiakov@ontario.ca]; Turnbull, Elizabeth (ENERGY) [Elizabeth.Turnbull@ontario.ca]; Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY) [Vanessa.Visheau@ontario.ca]; Wall, Vanda (OEB) [Vanda.Wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Whittington, Matt (ENERGY) [Matt.Whittington@ontario.ca]; Whytock, John (ENERGY) [John.Whytock@ontario.ca]; Williams, Claudia (ENERGY) [Claudia.Williams@ontario.ca]; Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY) [Lindsay.Wright@ontario.ca]; Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]

Subject: Hansard: Smith to thibeault -- Hydro-Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Smith: Thank you. My question this morning is for the acting **Premier**. Speaker, the Ontario Liberals failed and destructive energy policy means that almost 600 people in Sudbury could be on the verge of having their power cut off, shut off. They may have banned winter disconnections, Speaker, but years of disastrous electricity policy has caused hydro bills to go up by 300% means, for many Ontarians, for thousands of Ontarians, bills keep piling up. Speaker, why is the **Premier** continually making the millionaires' club at Hydro One bigger when people in Sudbury and other communities across the province are having to choose between paying their grocery bill or paying their electricity bill?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government that brought forward last winter our legislation that bans winter disconnections, Mr. Speaker, and we've worked with all utilities to make sure that that happened. And now, Mr. Speaker, that that ban is ending for many of these utilities, not all but for some, Mr. Speaker, that they're continuing to work with individuals to let them know that the programs that are there, Mr. Speaker, the ones that we put in place, the ones that they vetted against, Mr. Speaker, that the help low-income individuals, that help first nations individuals, Mr. Speaker, that make sure seniors actually can save more money on their electricity bills. Those are the things, Mr. Speaker, we did to actually help. We rebuilt the system. We made it affordable. We made it clean, Mr. Speaker, and it is reliable. It is something that they actually, Mr. Speaker, voted against continuously and we will continue to advocate for and work on on behalf of the people of Ontario.

>>MPP Smith: Speaker the Minister gets you and he bellows about all the plans that are in place. Do you know why those plans are necessary, Mr. Speaker ? It's because of the disastrous energy policies of this -- And this government over the last 15 years. We have amongst the highest hydro prices in all of north America. That's why they've got to put in this unfair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, the price of electricity under the Ontario Liberal government has increased by 300% in parts of --Speaker, if it's so fair, if it's so fair --How come thousands of Ontarians can't afford to pay their electricity bills and are about to get cut off? Mr. Speaker, what is the government going to do for those people?

>>Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, we've made sure that we brought forward the fair hydro plan, which I know that they're actually using, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that -- they had no plan, Mr. Speaker. So our plan is so good that they're keeping it, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that. So you know, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to find programs that will work to help people, Mr. Speaker, because under this government we've never had a blackout that lasted three days. Under that government, Mr. Speaker, they did. You know what, Mr. Speaker ? We've made sure we've invested in a system that is now reliable, clean and affordable, Mr. Speaker. There is no more coal being used in our electricity grid. We are 96% G.H.G. Free, Mr. Speaker. And I know they want to change that. I know they want to change that, Mr. Speaker, because you know what, Mr. Speaker ? They have no plan. They have no ideas. All they do, Mr.

Speaker, is meet with developers in the back room and talk about paving things over rather than thinking about the people of Ontario

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