

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=c1277e2d9ff4c598e3819f291200a35-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]; 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]; 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]; 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]; 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: Tabuns to Thibeault -- Hydro-Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, to the **Premier**. On April 19th, the Ontario energy board announced what at least seems to be good news. Hydro rates were not going up. But it turns out that this was just government propaganda, because if you dig just a little bit further, you find that actual hydro costs have jumped by roughly 10% from last year. The government is using borrowed cash to hide these true costs from the public before the election. Why won't the **Premier** just tell the truth, that her \$40 billion hydro borrowing scheme will send bills skyrocketing by 70% after the election?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fair hydro plan, as the member is well aware, is bringing forward and has brought forward, Mr. Speaker, a 25% reduction for all families across the province, and then that, Mr. Speaker, is being held to the rate of inflation for the next four years, Mr. Speaker. And then the long-term energy plan, Mr. Speaker, also shows costs are being pulled out of the system to keep our system reliable, clean and affordable for all people right across the province, Mr. Speaker. It is good news, Mr. Speaker, that the O.E.B. Brought forward no rate increases this year. And we'll continue, Mr. Speaker, to work with all our partners to ensure that we keep having a system that is reliable, a system that is clean and affordable, Mr. Speaker. For us on this side of the House, we made sure that we acted on it for the opposition party, Mr. Speaker. They voted against that.

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Again to the **Premier**. The **Premier** is using borrowed cash to hide the true cost of hydro before the election. But background documents buried in the Ontario energy board's website show the truth. Actual hydro costs have jumped about 10% from last year. Those are the costs that Ontario families will still have to pay after the **Premier's** payday loan comes due. Leaked government documents show that hydro bills will rise 70% over ten years, starting after the election. Will the **Premier** tell Ontarians the truth that her hydro borrowing scheme drives bills up even further over the long term, not down?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again there's a document called the long-term energy plan. I encourage the member to read it, where he will see that the actual rates are actually lower, Mr. Speaker, moving forward than they would have been even four years ago, Mr. Speaker, and where that projection would be. We invested, Mr. Speaker, in the fair hydro plan to make sure that we could reduce rates by 25% for everyone across the province, Mr. Speaker. They voted against that, Mr. Speaker. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? They have no plan when it comes to actually reducing rates. What they want to do is eliminate the fair hydro plan. They want to raise rates by 25%, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, we brought forward a plan. We helped all families right across the province and 500,000 small businesses and farms, Mr. Speaker, and those that live in rural and northern parts of our province, they continue to see rates anywhere that have been reduced between 35. And 50% on average, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to act on behalf of the people of Ontario and helping them, Mr. Speaker, keeping a clean reliable and affordable system.

>>MPP Tabuns: Speaker, again to the **Premier**. Speaker, and again to the **Premier**. Minister of energy was positively gleeful last week after the Conservatives release add hydro plan that kept all of the worst Liberal hydro policies. The Conservative plan will keep the Liberal government's \$40 billion hydro borrowing scheme, which will drive bills up by more than 70% after the election. Conservative plan will keep private profits on our hydro bills and will keep Hydro One privatized. And the Minister of energy couldn't be happier. Why on Earth is this government celebrating the fact that the **Premier's** hydro policies have been endorsed by Doug Ford?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the NDP Platform when it comes to electricity has them buying back billions of dollars in shares of Hydro One that will not take one cent off of electricity bills for Ontario families and businesses, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why they think that's a good idea. On this side of the House we brought forward a plan, Mr. Speaker, that reduced rates by 25% and they voted against it, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to first nations, when it comes to individuals living on first nations, Mr. Speaker, we eliminated the delivery credit, Mr. Speaker. They voted against that. When it comes to low-income individuals, Mr. Speaker, and their plan wasn't even mentioned until the last page, Mr. Speaker. We make --So, Mr. Ser, let's think about this. They're going to spend billions buying back shares of Hydro One that actually will not do anything to lower anyone's electricity bills but those billions of dollars that they spend will mean that they will have to close schools, close hospitals. What are they going to cut, Mr. Speaker ? Make sure that they can buy back a plan and a company that won't save anybody anything, Mr. Speaker .

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