

September 9, 2024

Julia Black
Policy Advisor
Ministry of Energy
77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

Re: Support for Hydro One's Transmission Line Project (ERO Notice 019-9007)

Dear Ms. Julia Black,

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is the indispensable partner of business and Canada's largest, most influential provincial chamber. The OCC's mission is to convene, align and advance the interests of its members through policy work, value-added business services and broad engagement to drive competitiveness and inclusive, sustainable economic growth in the province.

On behalf of the OCC and Timmins Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to express our support for Hydro One's proposed transmission line project as outlined in ERO Notice 019-9007. Our members include a diverse network of 60,000 businesses across the province, including many in Northern Ontario, for whom reliable energy infrastructure is crucial to ensuring the ability to produce and export goods, and to enable regional economic growth.

Northern Ontario plays a critical role in the economic fabric of our province, particularly through its mining, forestry, steel production and resource development sectors. These industries are foundational to Ontario's economy and depend on a stable and reliable power supply to operate effectively. The IESO's 2022 plan recognized the need for bulk system reinforcements to meet the region's growing electricity demand, primarily driven by Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy and the electrification of energy-intensive industries. We strongly agree with the IESO's recommendations as energy is critical to unlocking the tremendous economic potential in Northern Ontario.

Hydro One's proposed transmission line project will significantly enhance the region's electricity infrastructure, supporting the growth of these key industries and attracting investment and job creation. While primarily benefiting Northern Ontario, this project will create positive ripple effects across the province, stimulating demand for goods and services, fostering innovation, and driving long-term economic opportunities. It will ensure that Northern Ontario has the energy it needs to produce the steel, minerals and resources needed province-wide, including for electric vehicle manufacturing plants in Southern Ontario.

As Chambers of Commerce, we are committed to advancing economic reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Based on its shared commitment to these goals, the OCC strongly supports the designation of Hydro One as the transmitter for the Porcupine to Wawa Transmission Line. We are encouraged by Hydro One's ongoing commitment to fostering strong partnerships with Indigenous communities, including through its 50-50 equity partnerships model and its ongoing commitment to working in partnership with the six nations that collectively form the Wabun Tribal Council. These partnerships are vital for ensuring that the project delivers shared benefits and creates economic opportunity for Indigenous Peoples, while also supporting long-term economic growth in the region.

We strongly believe that this transmission line project is essential for the continued economic development of the region, Northern Ontario and, by extension, the prosperity of Ontario as a whole. We look forward to working with the government and our partners in securing Ontario's energy future.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce



Keitha Robson
Chief Administrative Officer
Timmins Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification, Government of Ontario
Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, Government of Ontario
David Lebetter, President and CEO, Hydro One
Lisa Pearson, SVP Corporate Affairs, Hydro One