

January 13, 2025

Consultation Response (ERO: 019-9501)

On behalf of the Oakville Chamber, we are writing this submission in response to the Ministry of Energy's consultation on the role of natural gas in Ontario's future energy system.

This submission is in alignment with the Ontario Chamber's policy positions on the importance of a diversified energy mix of which natural gas remains a critical component of Ontario's energy mix, providing needed stability during the province's transition to a low-carbon future.

The Oakville Chamber of Commerce (OCC) recommends that the government prioritize energy affordability, reliability, and environmental sustainability as guiding principles in energy policies. Recognizing both the growing energy demands across Ontario and the importance of the energy transition, the OCC underscores the importance of a balanced and diversified energy strategy that integrates nuclear, hydroelectric, solar, wind, and natural gas.

This approach reflects the need for immediate and dependable energy sources, especially as electricity consumption in Ontario is projected to nearly double by 2050 due to increasing adoption of electric vehicles, home heating electrification, housing developments, and critical mineral production. Natural gas, in this context, provides an essential backstop to ensure grid reliability and cost-effectiveness during peak demand periods.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce has also cautioned against regulatory measures that might compromise energy affordability and system reliability. That is why we recommend leveraging natural gas alongside existing assets such as hydroelectricity and nuclear, while supporting the steady integration of innovative technologies such as hydrogen and small modular reactors to lower emissions in line with Canada's targets. This balanced approach reflects the Chamber's commitment to advancing Ontario's economic and environmental objectives simultaneously.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Best regards,



France Fournier
President and CEO
Oakville Chamber of Commerce



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