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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Jan 8, 2025

Minister of Energy and Electrification  
77 Grenville Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2C1

Dear Minister Stephen Lecce:

**Re: Support for a Diversified Energy Strategy for Ontario**

On behalf of the Township of West Lincoln, we are writing to express our support for a diversified energy strategy for the Province of Ontario, which includes natural gas as a key component. A balanced energy mix is essential to ensuring Ontario's energy system remains affordable, reliable, and capable of supporting our communities and economic growth.

Natural gas provides unmatched benefits in several critical areas:

**1. Reliability and Resilience**

- Natural gas offers municipalities a stable energy source that supports operations during power outages or periods of high demand, ensuring continuous energy supply for residents and businesses.
- Its underground infrastructure is less vulnerable to extreme weather events compared to above-ground electricity systems, enhancing reliability during storms and emergencies.

**2. Affordability**

- With Ontario having some of the lowest rates of energy poverty in Canada, natural gas plays a significant role in keeping energy costs manageable for households and businesses.
- It delivers energy at a fraction of the cost of electricity while providing four to five times the maximum capacity. This affordability is vital for residents, public buildings, and local businesses.

**3. Support for Housing and Economic Growth**

- High-growth areas in Ontario, including many within our township, require immediate energy capacity to support new housing developments and infrastructure. Relying solely on the electricity grid will not meet these pressing needs.
- A flexible energy system that includes natural gas is crucial for attracting industries, particularly those unable to fully electrify, such as steel and concrete manufacturers.

#### 4. Energy Security During Extreme Weather

- In times of peak winter demand, natural gas ensures households and businesses remain warm and safe. Currently, no proven alternative can meet these demands as effectively or securely.

The Township of West Lincoln appreciates the government's focus on integrated energy planning and the Ontario Energy Board's efforts to ensure rational expansion of the natural gas system. Maintaining a low-cost, resilient energy infrastructure is critical for supporting housing, economic growth, and a sustainable future for Ontario's communities.

We urge the Province of Ontario to continue prioritizing a balanced and inclusive energy strategy that leverages the strengths of natural gas alongside other energy sources. This approach will ensure a stable, affordable, and reliable energy future for all Ontarians.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mayor Cheryl Ganann

cc. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP

Julie Alexander, Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Advisor, Enbridge Gas Inc.