



Joint electronic submissions to:

ERO number 025-0409
Ministry of Energy and Mines

ERO number 025-0380
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

May 17, 2025

Re: Proposed amendments to the *Electricity Act, 1998*, interim changes to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and a proposal for the *Species Conservation Act, 2025* to protect Ontario's Economy and Build a More Prosperous Ontario

To Whom It May Concern:

Pattern Canada, a subsidiary of Pattern Energy Group and an affiliate of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP), is one of the largest renewable energy owner-operators in Canada with 11 utility-scale wind facilities and associated transmission assets in service across the country. Our primary Canadian office is located in Toronto, and we employ over 100 Canadians. Our parent company, Pattern Energy Group, operates projects and has offices throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Pattern Canada (Pattern) appreciates the opportunity to provide recommendations on the proposed legislative and regulatory amendments being made through Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*.

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Pattern commends the Ford government for its leadership in protecting Ontario's workers and businesses. Further, we fully support Bill 5's intent to formalize the Ministry of Energy and Mines' authority and ability to enact specific parameters to protect Ontario's critical minerals and energy sectors from foreign interference and to respond appropriately to trade measures. However, we are concerned that the current procurement language may unintentionally disadvantage Canadian-owned companies, including those representing the interests of the 22 million Canadians who are contributors to the CPP.

The Ontario Government's *Ontario Procurement Restriction Policy*, which went into effect on March 4, 2025, does not explicitly recognize Canadian ownership as a condition for a Canadian business with a US-based parent company. Should energy resource procurements launched by the IESO or other energy sector entities rely on the current policy, Canadian-owned companies such as Pattern will unintentionally be disadvantaged in the Long-Term 2 RFP scheduled later this year and in future years.

As such, we recommend that forthcoming regulations or directives from the Ministry of Energy and Mines clarify the procurement policy for energy resource procurements and exempt Canadian-owned companies to safeguard domestic investments and Canadian pension assets. This approach would help ensure the language of the policy aligns with the spirit of the policy.

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Since 2011, Pattern has invested over \$3 billion in Ontario and we look forward to the opportunity to continue this record of shared success, along with First Nation and municipal partners, and responsible investment in Ontario.

Pattern is interested in continuing to consult with staff at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in a collaborative fashion to ensure that the soon-to-be enacted *Species Conservation Act* and forthcoming regulations will continue to provide clear guidance that allow wind generation facilities to operate responsibly and in compliance within a predictable regulatory regime.

We recommend that MECP either host information sessions or accept additional feedback from the wind energy sector on the development of proposed regulations to optimize regulatory certainty from the rules that will govern the interim phase after the enactment of Bill 5 and before the implementation of the *Species Conservation Act* in 2026. It is important to Pattern that we have a means of ensuring compliance to all applicable provincial and federal laws and regulations, including those relating to the protection of endangered and threatened species.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these comments and recommendations with Ministry officials at their earliest convenience. Feel free to contact Pamela Paultre (pamela.paultre@patternenergy.com) to schedule a follow-up meeting.