

May 16, 2025

**Via ERO Portal and Email:** [MiningActAmendments@ontario.ca](mailto:MiningActAmendments@ontario.ca)

Ministry of Energy and Mines  
Sector and Intergovernmental Policy Branch  
99 Wellesley St W  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

**RE: ERO Number 025-0409 re proposed amendments to the *Mining Act*, *Electricity Act*, and *OEB Act*, to protect Ontario's Economy and Build a More Prosperous Ontario.**

The Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) is pleased to provide comments regarding the above-noted proposal. The EDA represents electricity local distribution companies (LDC) from across Ontario, the part of the electricity system closest to the customer. Our sector is on the frontlines of power, employing approximately 11,000 full-time employees who manage 270,000 km of distribution lines that deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to 5.4 million customers across Ontario. The sector owns over \$30 billion in electricity system infrastructure and invests more than \$2.5 billion annually in the electricity grid.

We understand that this proposal represents one of several actions being taken by the Government of Ontario to support economic prosperity through a streamlined review process, special economic zone designations, more efficient permitting and approvals, and a Canada-first approach. We strongly support the objectives of this proposal, and our comments are offered in the spirit of promoting economic development and supporting local Canadian businesses wherever possible, while also maintaining reliability and affordability for electricity customers.

Our members are responsible for distributing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity throughout the province. **The Canada-first approach is a principle that our members have embraced if ratepayers are not unduly impacted. Any prohibition or parameters on foreign equipment, systems, services, facilities or technologies procured from foreign jurisdictions should be assessed carefully in consultation with the sector to ensure that supply chains are not disrupted and where there are no Canadian alternatives.** For example, there are products and services, particularly software and computing components, that are not offered by Canadian businesses. This may lead to unintended consequences such as service disruptions and additional downstream costs for customers. Therefore, the EDA submits:

**EDA Recommendation:** The Minister of Energy and Mines should engage LDCs to identify any immediate and long-term implications on energy sector supply chains before using the proposed regulation-making authority in Bill 5 to limit or define parameters on foreign procured equipment, systems, services, facilities or technologies. Engagement with the sector should ensure that LDCs can procure the equipment and technologies that maintains reliability and does not add downstream costs for customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters. We appreciate the efforts of the provincial government to protect Ontario and unleashing our economic potential. Please do not hesitate to contact Ted Wigdor, Vice President, Policy, Government & Corporate Affairs, at [twigdor@eda-on.ca](mailto:twigdor@eda-on.ca) or at 416.809.6781, if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Sarkesian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Teresa Sarkesian  
President and Chief Executive Officer