

July 22, 2025

Environmental Registry of Ontario
C/O Julia Black
Ministry of Energy and Mines
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

Dear Julia,

**Re: Supporting Critical Transmission Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario –
The Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project ERO 025-0659**

The County of Essex supports the Ministry of Energy and Mines' proposal to prioritize the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project under Section 96.1(1) of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998. Strengthening transmission infrastructure in our region is critical to meeting the growing energy needs of our residents, businesses, and agri-sector, while also aligning with provincial goals for clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We respectfully submit the following benefits as key reasons for supporting this investment:

1. Reliable Power for Residents and Businesses

Improving hydro services ensures reliable electricity for homes, farms, healthcare facilities, and businesses across Essex County. With fewer outages and better service, families enjoy greater comfort, and businesses can operate without costly interruptions—supporting both urban and rural areas, including key sectors like agriculture and manufacturing.

2. Support for Economic Growth and Agri-Business

Essex County has a strong agri-business sector, including greenhouses and food processing plants, which rely heavily on consistent hydro service. Improved hydro infrastructure helps attract and retain business investment, enabling local job creation and economic development across the region.



3. Sustainability and Climate Leadership

Enhanced hydro infrastructure—especially when tied to renewable sources—helps the County move toward greener energy solutions. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels aligns with local and provincial climate goals, and positions Essex County as a leader in sustainable urban and rural development.

4. Improved Quality of Life

With reliable electricity, residents benefit from a wider selection of heating, cooling, internet access, and remote work opportunities. Schools and healthcare services across the County—from Leamington to LaSalle—can also deliver more consistent service when the power supply is stable and modernized.

5. Infrastructure Readiness for the Future

As Essex County grows and adapts to future demands—such as electric vehicles, digital services, and emergency preparedness—upgraded hydro infrastructure ensures we are equipped to meet these needs. It also supports smart energy systems that enhance long-term community resilience.

6. Stronger Rural and Agricultural Resilience

In our rural communities, reliable power is critical for livestock operations, irrigation systems, and greenhouse technologies. Modernizing hydro services ensures that these essential operations can function efficiently, even during extreme weather events or supply chain pressures.

In addition to the benefits outlined above, we strongly recommend ongoing, transparent consultation and collaboration with the County of Essex, the Municipality of Lakeshore, and the Town of Tecumseh throughout the development of this project. As the proposed transmission line will pass through both local municipalities, continued engagement will be essential to ensuring the project's success and community support.

We would also like to acknowledge and commend the Ministry and Hydro One for the collaborative approach taken during the Longwood to Lakeshore project. This model of engagement, with consistent updates, open dialogue, and opportunities for input, served as a strong example of how infrastructure development can be achieved in partnership with municipalities.

Prioritizing clear and consistent communication with impacted municipalities and stakeholders will be key to the success of this project and is an important element of building trust and support within our communities.

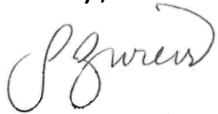
The County of Essex appreciates the opportunity to comment and looks forward to continued involvement as the project progresses.



July 25, 2025

Should you require further information, please contact me by email at szwiers@countyofessex.ca or by phone at extension 1350.

Sincerely,



Sandra Zwiers MAcc, CPA, CA
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Essex

CC:

- Margaret Misek Evans, CAO, Town of Tecumseh mevans@tecumseh.ca
- Tyson Cragg, CAO, Municipality of Lakeshore tcragg@lakeshore.ca
- Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Kate@wowc.ca



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