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Sent: December 20, 2024 4:47 PM
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Cc: Kara Van Myall <kara.vanmyall@saugeenshores.ca>
Subject: Natural Gas Policy Consultation

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Good afternoon Mayor Charbonneau,

I am reaching out today as Minister Lecce announced a [provincial consultation process](#) which launched this week around the continued role of natural gas in Ontario's diversified energy portfolio, and its contributions to long-term system reliability, affordability, and economic growth.

This consultation, which closes on **January 16, 2025**, will inform Ontario's Natural Gas Policy Statement, and serve as a key input into the upcoming Integrated Energy Resource Plan.

As you and your members know, this is a pivotal moment that will shape Ontario's energy future.

Our homes, hospitals, farms, and businesses benefit from a reliable, safe, affordable, and clean energy system. Enbridge's natural gas network serves 3.9 million customers, and provides heat to 75 percent of Ontario's residents, safely and reliably.

Natural gas is also the backbone of Ontario's energy supply mix, providing system reliability during peak demand times, supporting grid resilience as new industries come online, and working in concert with renewables and non-emitting resources to enable the electrification of key sectors. Ensuring a balanced, diverse, and secure system is vital with electricity demand forecasted to increase by 75 per cent by 2050.

Natural gas is also a bridge to the future, with an extensive infrastructure network ready to deliver lower-carbon fuels, such as renewable natural gas and hydrogen.

We believe a united voice for a strong energy mix, including natural gas, will achieve Ontario's goals of a reliable, safe and affordable energy system, now and in the future.

Enbridge will be responding to all the consultation questions, and we wanted to share our messages (please see attached) with you as you consider your position for the government's consultation.

Please be in touch if you have any questions.

Happy holidays to you and your family,
Julie

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Overarching Question:

- Natural gas is a key part of a balanced energy mix, allowing for a realistic transition to lower emissions while ensuring energy remains affordable and reliable. We agree with the government's position that the Ontario Energy Board must ensure a rational expansion of the natural gas system to support housing and economic growth.
- Natural gas provides energy that can support municipalities during power outages or when demand is high, improving municipal reliability.
- Ontario needs an all-of-the-above approach to integrated planning. The government must ensure that all households and businesses have the necessary flexibility to meet their energy needs according to their budget and timelines.
- We need to ensure that Ontario households and businesses keep warm and safe, especially during extreme cold weather, as there is no proven, secure alternative available to meet peak winter demand.
- Maintaining a low-cost, resilient underground energy infrastructure is crucial in delivering reliable and clean power. Ensuring a sustainable future for Ontario's families and industries is imperative. Natural gas is an unmatched energy source that provides twice the energy and four to five times the maximum electricity capacity at a quarter of the cost.
- Electricity capacity is a concern and we need to ensure that Ontario's energy system is ready to meet this important moment by ensuring that all forms of energy.

Affordability/ Reliability:

- According to [Statistics Canada](#), Ontario has among the lowest rates of energy poverty in Canada, compared to Atlantic provinces who are mainly heated by electricity and propane and oil. Natural gas is an affordable and safe way to heat Ontario's homes.
- Natural gas provides municipalities with a stable and affordable energy source, which helps keep taxes lower for residents, business and public buildings like schools and hospitals.
- Natural gas delivers four to five times the maximum capacity of the electricity system at a quarter of the cost and is much less affected by climate events, thus strengthening reliability.
- Natural gas' underground infrastructure means that it is not affected by storms that can disrupt customers. Burying electricity assets is expensive. According to BC Hydro, burying electricity lines can cost up to [10 times more than building overhead](#) infrastructure.

Capacity / Economic Growth:

- Municipalities continue to attract investors to their jurisdictions. Providing investors flexibility is essential to attracting new businesses. Not all industries can fully electrify (steel, concrete). Further, not all manufacturers are willing to take a risk on a sole source of energy. Ensuring a balanced energy mix gives investors the flexibility they need for their timelines, resilience and balance sheets.
- Ontario communities need housing now and the province has several 'high-growth' areas that need more energy capacity immediately. These communities cannot wait for the electricity grid alone to support them. They need to ensure that their regions and municipalities can meet the energy needs of today.