



28 July 2020

The Honourable Minister Greg Rickford, MPP
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development, and Mines
99 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

RE: Extending Ontario's electricity and demand management framework to 2025

Dear Minister Rickford,

We commend the Government of Ontario's ongoing efforts to guide the province through the unprecedented public health and economic crisis cause by COVID-19. As we continue to adjust and reflect on the changes and challenges we face, we are reminded of how we must protect what matters most: people and planet.

That is why, given their critical role driving investments in Ontario, we would like to request the Government of Ontario extend the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) conservation framework for an additional five years to 2025.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of preparation and the ability for local economies and supply chains to promptly respond to changing realities and shifting markets. As it relates to the energy sector, the uncertainty of the continuity of the IESO Interim Framework for electricity conservation programs, set to expire at the end of 2020, has compounded industry concern.

As your ministry considers economic recovery measures, we would like to note that investments in energy efficiency provisions reduces utility demand and their associated costs. In addition, improving and investing in infrastructure stimulates and supports a sustainable economy while providing environmental benefits, and delivers on important government priorities: environmental conservation, economic growth, and job creation. Investments in the energy efficiency sector can create more jobs per dollar invested with an annual increase in GDP by \$12.5 million. As you are quoted in a news release from November 2019:

A strong and reliable system is crucial in supporting growing industries and fuelling job growth.

Continuing to support capital investments is vital as energy demand continues to escalate. For example, the greenhouse industry is forecasted to increase energy demand by 180% by 2024. Central to its operations include the use of high-intensity discharge (HID) and high-pressure sodium lighting, both of which contain substantial quantities of mercury. The year-round nature of their operations demands considerable energy and installing light-emitting diode (LED) technology can save as much as 550 gigawatt-hours and 388,872 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Furthermore, there is significant opportunity for energy efficiency and savings through lighting retrofits. The Save On Energy conservation program supports critical infrastructure improvements that reduce energy consumption and improve the energy system as a whole.

Take Back the Light, a program of Recycling Council of Ontario, and its lighting partners have had success in educating and encouraging consumers to properly recycle mercury-containing lights and replace them with improved energy efficient replacements like LED alternatives. This simple change has delivered significant greenhouse gas emission and energy demand reductions, increased recycling capacity in the province, and generated system-wide cost savings.



As we further mobilize recovery, we must leverage the opportunity to invest in commercial and consumer activities that can support economic and environmental goals simultaneously. Energy efficiency and energy savings remain the single most important means to meet climate and energy security objectives cost-effectively.

We urge you to take advantage of these opportunities, and reinvest and support Ontario's energy sector by extending the IESO framework to 2025.

Sincerely,

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CC: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, MPP, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks