
January 16th, 2025

To: Ministry of Energy
Re: Natural Gas Policy Statement Consultation

On behalf of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, we are writing in response to the consultation on the critical role of natural gas in Ontario's energy future. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our insights on such a pivotal matter.

Economic Competitiveness and Affordability

Natural gas is a cornerstone of Ontario's economic competitiveness, providing a reliable and affordable energy source crucial for businesses in Halton Hills and across the province. This energy helps maintain low operational costs and high productivity. We strongly advocate for policies that ensure continued access to affordable natural gas, as it significantly contributes to the economic stability of our communities.

Support for Key Industries

Many industries in Ontario, including those in Halton Hills, depend heavily on natural gas for high-heat processes. Key sectors such as metal, glass, and cement manufacturing rely on this resource and currently have limited alternatives. We urge the government to consider the specific needs of these critical industries when formulating the Natural Gas Policy Statement.

Community Development and Housing

Natural gas is essential in new community development and housing projects, providing an affordable heating solution that meets the rapid energy needs of high-growth areas like Halton Hills.

Infrastructure and Future Readiness

Ontario boasts an extensive natural gas infrastructure, a valuable asset that should be leveraged for future energy needs. This robust network supports existing demands and is pivotal for future development zones, offering the scalability and reliability that new communities require.

Transition to Low-Carbon Future

While we recognize the need to transition to a low-carbon future, natural gas will play a crucial role in this process. The existing infrastructure can facilitate the delivery of low-

carbon fuels such as renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. We encourage the government to support research and development in these areas and to establish a regulatory framework that enables the integration of these cleaner alternatives into the existing network.

Recommendations

1. Maintain affordable access to natural gas for both businesses and residents to bolster economic competitiveness.
2. Develop policies that address the unique needs of high-heat industries that depend on natural gas.
3. Support the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to facilitate community growth and development.
4. Invest in the research and development of low-carbon alternatives that can utilize existing natural gas infrastructure.
5. Establish a regulatory framework that promotes the gradual integration of cleaner fuels into the natural gas network.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce believes that a balanced approach, which acknowledges the current importance of natural gas while planning for a cleaner energy future, is essential for Ontario's prosperity. We look forward to seeing how these considerations are reflected in the upcoming Natural Gas Policy Statement.

Thank you for inviting stakeholder consultation.

Sincerely,

Melanie Frazer
President & CEO, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce



Sean Ashbee
Chair, Board of Directors, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce