

October 22, 2020

Jennifer French
MPP for Oshawa
2-78 Centre Street
Oshawa, ON, L1G 4B6

RE: Bill 43, the *Freeing Highways 412 and 418 Act*

Dear MPP French,

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for Bill 43, the *Freeing Highways 412 and 418 Act*, which proposes to bring an end to tolling on Highways 412 and 418.

North-south transportation is critical to Ontario's economy. It allows businesses to connect to markets and supply chains, communities to attract and retain workers, and tourists and residents to travel across the province.

Tolls on Highways 412 and 418 have put businesses in Durham Region at an economic disadvantage, especially as similar corridors are not tolled elsewhere (including Highways 400, 427, and 404 that connect the 401 to the 407). Further, tolls divert traffic to nearby downtown areas and other north-south routes, increasing gridlock and putting additional pressure on local infrastructure.

As one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, it is critical that Durham Region be able to move people and goods efficiently. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Rod Phillips, MPP for Ajax
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge