

February 25, 2022

Ms. Vanessa Ieraci
Ministry of Energy, Government of Ontario
77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C1

Re. Supporting Critical Transmission Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario (ERO No. 019-4926)

Dear Ms. Ieraci:

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), I am writing to express our support for the regulatory proposal to prioritize the development and completion of urgent electricity transmission infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario.

As the indispensable partner of business in Ontario, the OCC recognizes that demand for electricity is growing in the region as a result of economic growth and electrification. The business community is ready to invest, grow, and create jobs in Southwestern Ontario, but they need transmission infrastructure to power that growth.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and upward trend in extreme weather events demonstrate the importance of proactively investing in infrastructure that supports business growth and competitiveness, economic recovery, climate resiliency, as well as local economies of scale and supply chain networks. The proposed transmission lines are part of that critical infrastructure. They will deliver clean, reliable electricity to the region, particularly in response to an expanding agricultural industry that lies at the heart of Southwestern Ontario's economy.

Advancing infrastructure that will benefit both businesses and communities is of vital importance. Governments need to work together to ensure infrastructure can keep up with the needs of this region. Taking the steps as defined in the regulatory posting is certainly a move in the right direction.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce