

April 25, 2019

Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Whitney Block, Room 5630
5th Floor, 99 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 1W1

RE: Federal Carbon Tax Transparency Act, 2019

Dear Minister Rickford,

I am writing to ask you to remove the section of the *Federal Carbon Tax Transparency Act, 2019* that, if passed, would require gas station operators to display a sticker on gasoline pumps showing the impact of the federal carbon tax.

As Ontario's business advocate, we support the government's commitment to reducing the debt and deficit as well as cutting red tape by 25 percent by 2022. We welcome the steps already taken to act on this target, including the creation of a separate Deputy Minister for Red Tape and Regulatory Burden Reduction, as well as the passage of Bill 47, the *Making Ontario Open for Business Act, 2018*, and Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*. Yet, more work must be done to build a stronger Ontario and create an environment which encourages growth.

We were disappointed to see this legislation proposed in Budget 2019 as many of our chambers' and boards of trades' members are gas station operators. Our members – including gas station operators – have expressed concerns regarding the political nature of the stickers, viewing them as a violation of their rights and freedoms. In addition, this initiative is an example of unnecessary red tape: it is both a new administrative burden and an increased cost to business thanks to the punitive and out-sized fines for non-compliance.

We ask that you proceed without this section of the *Federal Carbon Tax Transparency Act, 2019*, and look forward to continuing to work with the government to support evidence-based policies that drive growth and contribute to a stronger province for all.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

CC: Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance and Chair of Cabinet
CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario