

October 29, 2024

Hon. Anita Anand
President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N5

Re: Support for the High-Frequency Rail (HFR) Project – A Critical Investment in Canada’s Future

Dear Minister Anand,

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is the indispensable partner of business and Canada’s largest, most influential provincial chamber. The OCC’s mission is to convene, align and advance the interests of its members through policy work, value-added business services and broad engagement to drive competitiveness and inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

I am writing to express our strong support for the High-Frequency Rail (HFR) project. This transformative investment has the potential to significantly bolster both Ontario’s and Canada’s economic competitiveness.

Our organization represents a diverse network of 60,000 businesses across the province, including many in the Quebec-Toronto corridor. For these businesses, reliable, sustainable, and rapid transportation infrastructure is crucial to supporting supply chain efficiency, strengthening interprovincial trade relationships, and attracting talent. The project is also vital in connecting businesses and travellers to other major transportation arteries, such as rail networks, airports, and ground transportation routes. Efficient access to effective transit and transportation networks is also critical for attracting business investments and supporting local tourism.

Looking ahead, the HFR project is particularly vital given our expected population growth, leading to unprecedented demands on our transportation systems. By connecting key economic regions, and expanding multi-modal hubs, this project will help alleviate pressure on our existing transportation networks, offering residents and businesses an efficient alternative. This addresses current needs and proactively prepares for future challenges, ensuring that our transportation infrastructure can support long-term economic growth and regional development.

On the environmental front, the HFR project will also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by offering a more sustainable alternative to road travel. This initiative aligns with provincial and national climate targets and reflects Canada’s broader commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. As businesses across Ontario increasingly prioritize sustainability in

their operations, investments in green infrastructure will reinforce Canada's leadership on the global stage.

We strongly believe that this infrastructure project is essential for the continued competitiveness of Ontario and, by extension, of Canada as a whole. In the longer term, we would also urge the extension of the project to the Toronto-Windsor corridor.

We look forward to working with you to cement Canada's position as an innovative nation, investing in technologies that drive our economy forward.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce