

April 4, 2012

Sylwia Przewdziecki
Clerk, Committee on General Government
99 Wellesley St. West Room 1405
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Subject: Bill 8 Ontario One Call Act

To Whom It May Concern:

As Ontario's business advocate, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is a federation of 160 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade in Ontario, representing 60,000 businesses of all sizes, in all economic sectors and from every area of the province. Our members employ about two million people and produce about 17 percent of Ontario's Gross Domestic Product.

The OCC is a proponent of reducing red tape to foster a prosperous and healthy Ontario. Currently, homeowners, building contractors and other excavators go through an onerous process to locate utility lines near a dig site. In many cases the inability to obtain precise locations before digging leads to hazardous damage to infrastructure, added strain on emergency services and serious risks to public safety, costing Ontario's taxpayers about \$39 million a year.

A single provider, mandatory one call system, free to the end user would create a streamlined and standardized process that would reduce the administrative burden born by the business and excavating community while protecting public and worker safety. In the United States, mandatory one call systems have decreased no locate damages by 70 per cent over a four-year period.

The OCC's Sustainability Committee supports the passage of Bill 8 or similar legislation, which would ensure it is mandatory for all utility asset owners and excavators to join a single, not for profit, one call locate system. We expect formal ratification of the OCC's support for the One Call Act at our upcoming Annual General Meeting in May.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our position to the Standing Committee on General Government. If you have questions or comments or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Angie Brennand at 416.482.5222 ext.2320 or angiebrennand@occ.on.ca.

Yours sincerely,



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