

July 4, 2013

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier
Legislative Bldg, Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A1A1

Retention of the “Industrial Exception” under the Professional Engineers Act

Dear Premier Wynne,

The undersigned associations wish to thank you and your cabinet for making the right decision to retain the “Industrial Exception” under section 23 of the Professional Engineers Act of Ontario.

As we have stated there was no safety rationale for repealing the Industrial Exception. Ontario is unequivocally a leader in safety in the manufacturing sector. Ontario manufacturing has the lowest per employee fatality rate of any Province except Prince Edward Island. Furthermore, lost time incidents have declined dramatically over the last decade. We have achieved these results by creating a culture in which safety is everyone’s business. The repeal of the industrial exception would have crossed a line whereby safety would have become the purview of one profession to the detriment of the Internal Responsibility System (IRS) enshrined in the Occupational Health & Safety Act.

Had the Industrial Exception been repealed, the cost to the Ontario economy would have been in the hundreds of millions of dollars with no benefit in terms of safety. Given the fierce competitive pressures facing Ontario manufacturers, these increased costs translate into a potential loss of investment, loss of competitiveness and loss of jobs for Ontarians; again, for no benefit.

We are pleased with the government’s decision, but feel strongly that the applicable section of the legislation as it relates to the repeal of the industrial exception needs to be rescinded. The Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) has made clear it is resolved to secure the repeal of the industrial exception regardless of the facts around safety and regardless of the economic consequences. Therefore, we believe this additional step is necessary to ensure that we are not faced with this issue again.

It is our hope that this change will lead to broad implementation of the Ontario Regulatory Policy and a closer relationship between government and industry in the development of legislation and regulations that impact all Ontarians.

Thank you for your support and decision on this important file. We look forward to continuing the conversation on how to sustain and grow the manufacturing and industrial sectors in the interest of all Ontarians.

Regards,



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Vice President,
CME Ontario



Glenn Maidment
President,
The Rubber Association of Canada



Carol Hochu, MBA, CAE
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Canadian Plastics Industry Association



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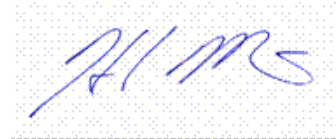
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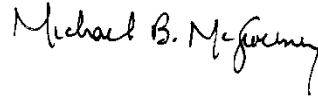


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