



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mike Morrice

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

December 14, 2022

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

The Liberals' Supply and Confidence Agreement with the NDP pledged to "achieve significant emissions reductions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels." Canadians view this pact as proof of your commitment to climate action through cuts to Canada's production of greenhouse gases. They trust that the Liberals and the NDP will fulfill this Agreement and deliver on this promise.

However, Ontario Premier Doug Ford has announced plans that threaten your ability to follow through on these climate commitments. This fall, Premier Ford's government stated that it will build new gas-fired power plants while increasing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the province's existing gas plants by 375% by 2030, and more than 600% by 2040.

This new plan is a clear and unequivocal threat to Canada's ability to meet its Paris Agreement climate targets. It will cancel out half the pollution reduction benefits Ontario achieved by phasing out its coal-fired power plants. Furthermore, Catherine McKenna and the United Nations' High-Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Emissions Commitments are recommending that "New fossil fuel-based electricity generation should not be permitted."

Fortunately, Ontario has realistic, achievable options at hand that offer viable clean energy alternatives to the Ford Government's planned gas-fired power plants. Ontario can move to a clean electricity future and lower energy costs by 2030 by investing in energy conservation and efficiency, wind and solar energy, and by increasing its electricity cooperation with Quebec, including using its neighbouring province's reservoirs to store Ontario's wind and solar energy.

According to a report released by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator on September 30, 2022, Ontario can avoid the need for new gas plants and lower its electricity costs by up to \$290 billion by investing in zero-carbon options to keep the lights on. Moving Ontario to a zero-carbon electricity system will help grow the provincial economy by attracting businesses looking for clean energy. It will also create vast new economic opportunities in renewable energy development, district energy, load control technologies, cold climate air-source heat pumps, and bi-directional chargers.

As you know, Canada has had nine climate plans since 1990 and has failed to meet any of their

targets. According to the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Jerry DeMarco, Canada has been the worst performer among G7 nations on meeting climate targets since the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015.

During the 2021 federal election your party promised to move Canada to a net zero-carbon electricity grid by 2035. We need strong leadership from this government to ensure that Canada meets its Paris Agreement targets.

Ontario is well positioned to lead among Canadian provinces when it comes to achieving a net zero electricity system but has not made enough progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. It is important for the federal government to clearly convey to the province the need to take action to meet its own 2030 targets, rather than regressing and harming Canada's climate action objectives.

I strongly urge your party to establish federal Clean Electricity Regulations that will prohibit the building of new gas-fired power plants in Ontario, effective immediately; and require Ontario to move to a net zero-carbon electricity grid by 2030. With strong leadership and continued climate action from you and the Liberal government as a whole, we can create a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous future for Canadians and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morrice".

Mike Morrice,
MP for Kitchener Centre