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September 17, 2018

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Indigenous Relations
5th Floor - Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W1

Dear Minister Rickford:

The Thunder Bay Economic Development Commission has long been a champion of the East-West Tie Transmission project in Northwestern Ontario.

Our city and region needs access to reliable sources of electricity to attract business and in particular, those in the mining sector who require large amounts to power their operations.

Nextbridge, the project developer, has quite simply done a first rate job in reaching out to the Indigenous Community extending job opportunity and job training programs, to local businesses advising on procurement and supply chain opportunity, and to communities and their respective economic development commissions from Wawa to Thunder Bay on the issues and opportunities associated with this vital energy infrastructure.

As you know, Nextbridge's project is well advanced and has long been awaiting its final Leave to Construct approval from the OEB. Nextbridge and its Indigenous Partners have, for a very long period of time, been more than ready to start construction.

Our economic development commission is very concerned about any further delays and also of the Ontario Energy Board's highly unusual decision to now entertain a competing proposal that was rejected more than 5-years ago. Private sector investments must have a clear regulatory path to 'yes.' More red tape and deliberation is not what this project needs.

We strongly urge you and your government to use whatever means you have available to fast track the Nextbridge proposal. Jobs, investment and credibility of our regulatory processes are at stake.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Murray", is placed above the typed name of the sender.

T. Douglas Murray, P.Eng.
CEO, Thunder Bay CEDC

cc Aaron Silver, Director of Policy
Nina Chiarelli, (A) Chief of Staff
Rosemary Leclair, Ontario Energy Board