

Common Voice Northwest

672 Churchill Place, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5Y8

Ph: 1-(807) 474-0926 **Fax:** (807) 474-0881

Email: ianangus@tbaytel.net

Chair: Wendy Landry **Executive Director:** Iain Angus

Energy Task Force

September 23, 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:

Common Voice Northwest's mission is to coordinate and support the efforts of organizational and community leaders in addressing the common issues impacting Northwestern Ontario. Our vision is to have vibrant communities with growing opportunities and sustainable services for all people at all phases of life in Northwestern Ontario.

Given the importance of energy to the livelihood of the region much of our work is devoted to this subject.

It was and now more than ever, continues to be our conviction that the East-West Tie Project is vital for the future of Northwestern Ontario.

Given the advanced and mature state of approval, our request to you and your Government is to ensure the Nextbridge Project proceeds as planned and that you grant their Leave-To-Construct, by Order In Council if necessary, so that the project can proceed with construction activities this fall.

An OIC is in keeping with what was issued on March 2, 2016 declaring that the East-West Tie Project is a 'priority project' and would provide the clarity this project now needs.

Rare is the time when a project enjoys such strong, positive and widespread support as does the Nextbridge project. Northwestern Ontario needs the energy to meet our needs and as a confidence builder for future economic development in the region. We see nothing but damage emerging from yet another round of regulatory review that questions the very premise of the awarding of the project to Nextbridge. We were all waiting for the long-delayed Leave To Construct to be issued, not to have the re-set button pushed and go back to basic project participants as that has long since been

settled. We must ensure our regulatory processes have clear paths to 'yes' — otherwise this process may never end.

We urge you to issue an Order In Council as soon as is possible to permit the Nextbridge Project to proceed with construction activity this fall.

Thank you in advance for considering our strong recommendation.

Sincerely



Iain Angus, Co-Chair
Energy Task Force



Larry Hebert, Co-Chair
Energy Task Force

cc Aaron Silver, Director of Policy, Office of the Honourable Greg Rickford
Nina Chiarelli, (A) Chief of Staff, Office of the Honourable Greg Rickford
Ms. Rosemarie Leclair, Chair, Ontario Energy Board

Attached: Copy of the remarks made to the Ontario Cabinet during the NOMA Briefing at AMO

The following is the narrative that includes the key points raised with Cabinet by the City of Thunder Bay and NOMA at AMO

In the City of Thunder Bay's presentation to the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Indigenous Affairs and in NOMA's presentation to the full Ontario Cabinet, which included Minister Greg Rickford, it was noted that The Northwest is ready to boom! We have 23 mining projects underway (only 3 in the Ring of Fire) and that 12 are to be operational by 2020 (within the term of this government).

The Ontario Government was advised that the economic impact during the term of their government will be at a minimum \$540 million in exploration investment, \$2.2 Billion in construction costs and \$2.7 Billion in operating revenue. It was also noted that the exploration and operating costs for the 5 remaining non-gold mines is unknown but will be significant. The GDP impact will range from \$7 Billion to \$10 Billion.

As a result of this economic activity, the Ontario Government will receive revenue between \$740 million and \$1 Billion over the next 5 years, not including the 5 non-gold mines and not including payments to Hydro One and OPG for massive amounts of electricity.

In order to ensure that this economic activity occurs the Northwest needs an assured supply of electricity. Key to this the construction of the East West Tie Line that will double the capacity of the Transmission facilities that bring power from North Eastern Ontario. The completion of that line by its approved and required in-service date of 2020 ensures that during drought conditions sufficient power is available in the Northwest.

Documents previously provided to the Ontario Government included a detailed description of why the east-west tie and other elements of the electrical system are required for the future.

*In the Thunder Bay and NOMA presentations to Cabinet during the week of August 20 the specific ask was to **"Issue an Order in Council by August 31, 2018 awarding the contract for the construction of the expanded East West Tie to Nextbridge, the only company capable of getting the bulk transmission line in service by 2020 as required by the IESO"***