



September 19, 2018

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Indigenous Relations
5th Floor - Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W1
Via email: greg.rickford@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Rickford:

On behalf of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, I am writing again to express our strong support for the Nextbridge East-West Tie Project.

The project is shovel ready with a well-trained labour force that includes a significant and welcomed Indigenous Community presence. Local businesses in Thunder Bay also welcome the project and are eager to participate in its supply chain activities, thanks to a proactive outreach program initiated by Nextbridge.

Long in the making, and at a very mature stage of approval, the EWT Project has all of the elements of success: reliable and dependable source of power to the region; widespread benefits within Thunder Bay and the region; support and participation of the Indigenous Communities; and, new investment and jobs in a part of Ontario that could use both. Furthermore, Nextbridge has already invested over \$60 million to ensure that the project is ready to meet the 2020 in-service date.

What the project desperately needs now is immediate action. The never-ending review before the Ontario Energy Board cannot continue. As you know, the project has been long awaiting a decision on its Notice To Proceed; another hearing that goes back to the starting line in order to review who the project should be assigned to is simply not acceptable.

Please take any and all necessary steps at your disposal to allow the Nextbridge project to proceed. It is shovel ready and, by virtue of the wide spread support, is region-ready as well. The negative impacts on investor confidence in the regulatory process are too great to consider otherwise.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charla Robinson".

Charla Robinson
President

- c. Aaron Silver, Director of Policy, aaron.silver@ontario.ca
Nina Chiarelli, (A) Chief of Staff, nina.chiarelli@ontario.ca
Rosemary Leclair, Chair, Ontario Energy Board