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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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September 21, 2018

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

Dear Minister Rickford:

The City of Thunder Bay (the City) would like to express its strong and positive support for the Nextbridge East-West Tie Project.

The Nextbridge project is shovel ready, enjoys widespread support throughout the region and in particular from Indigenous communities and local businesses, who both stand to gain significantly during the construction and operation of the infrastructure, let alone the 650 MW of power that would be delivered to a region that requires reliable energy to meet its current and future growth and economic needs.

This update and overview is worthy of repeating as we are deeply troubled over a regulatory process that in 2013 awards Nextbridge the project and then 5-years and over \$60 million later, the same regulatory in 2018 decides to let Hydro One to come in and renew their failed 2013 bid for the project.

This is not an efficient, fair or appropriate process to follow.

In 2016, the Ontario Government deemed the project to be a 'priority' by way of an Order In Council (OIC). It has been well over one year since Nextbridge filed, in July 2017 for the final approval - Leave To Construct, a process that is to take no longer than 210 days.

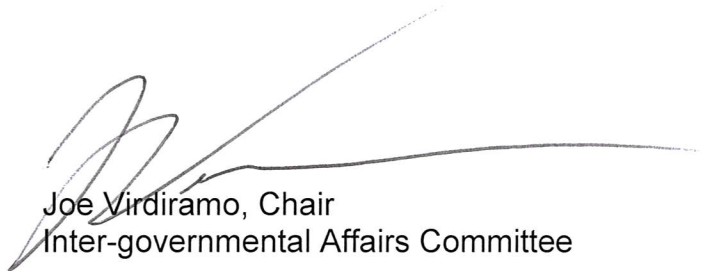
As such, the City is recommending that the clarity of an OIC be used to ensure the project does proceed as originally planned and approved, and thus allow Nextbridge to start construction later this year.

Thank you for your attention towards this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Keith P. Hobbs, Mayor  
City of Thunder Bay



Joe Virdiramo, Chair  
Inter-governmental Affairs Committee

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Nina Chiarelli, (A) Chief of Staff, Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines  
Aaron Silver, Director, Policy, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines  
Rosemary Leclair, Chair & Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Energy Board  
Norm Gale, City Manager, City of Thunder Bay  
Doug Murray, CEO, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission  
Iain Angus, Co-Chair, Common Voice Northwest Energy Task Force  
Inter-governmental Affairs Committee, City of Thunder Bay