

Ministry of Energy

Office of the Minister

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MC-994-2021-475

September 20, 2021

Mr. Mike Baumken
mikeb25@rogers.com

Dear Mr. Baumken:

Thank you for your letter on my appointment as Minister of Energy for Ontario. I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve the people of our province in my new role.

Supporting Ontarians through these unprecedented times continues to be our government's top priority. While our primary focus remains protecting the health and well-being of our citizens, our plans to power up our economic recovery are also underway. We are pressing on with our priorities for Ontario's energy system.

With respect to the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision, made back in 2015, to eliminate the Hydro One seasonal property rate class, I understand that the Honourable Greg Rickford, the former Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, explained the decision and the process in his previous correspondence with you.

As you are aware, the hearing on implementing the decision to eliminate the seasonal rate class is ongoing. I understand that you submitted a letter of comment to the OEB on this matter; your letter remains on the record and will be considered with other evidence as the Board makes its decision.

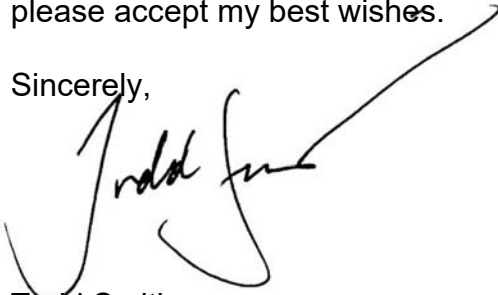
Our government remains committed to ensuring a fair and affordable electricity system for all Ontarians, and I am confident that the OEB and Hydro One will continue to work to protect the interests of consumers. I note that you copied your letter to Hydro One, and I trust your views are being carefully considered.

In your letter you reference the Rural or Remote Electricity Protection (RRRP) program. Please note that the RRRP is designed to provide rate relief to customers who reside in rural or remote areas of Ontario where the cost of service is higher. Eligibility criteria for the RRRP are specified in Ontario Regulation 442/01, Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection. Qualification for the RRRP requires a customer to live in their primary residence continuously for eight months of the year; seasonal properties do not meet the eligibility criteria.

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I hope this information helps to address your concerns. Thank you again for writing and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Todd Smith
Minister

c: Frank D'Andrea, Vice-President Reliability Standards and
Chief Regulatory Officer, Hydro One
Christine Long, Registrar, Ontario Energy Board