



**Re: Support for Natural Gas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo – Upcoming Regional Council Municipal Franchise Agreement Decision**

Dear Chair Redman and Regional Council,

On behalf of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to express our strong support for continued access to reliable, affordable natural gas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, and to encourage Council to renew its Municipal Franchise Agreement (MFA).

Natural gas is essential to the success of our members. It powers manufacturing facilities, commercial operations, housing developments, and community infrastructure. In a region where affordability, economic competitiveness, and reliable energy sources are top priorities, natural gas remains a critical energy source that supports business continuity and growth.

As Ontario's energy needs evolve, our members increasingly depend on infrastructure that is scalable, cost-effective, and integrated with broader planning. The province's Integrated Energy Plan reinforces the need for long-term certainty in our energy system to support housing, job creation, and economic development. Our members are ready to contribute to that growth, but they need energy systems that can keep pace.

Renewing the MFA is not a procedural formality, it's a strategic decision that protects energy choice, supports affordability, and ensures reliable service for businesses and residents alike. The MFA has provided a consistent, province-wide framework for over 25 years. It enables long-term planning and infrastructure coordination that benefits municipalities, utilities, and the business community. Our Chamber supports maintaining this framework to ensure predictability and fairness for all stakeholders.

We urge Council to consider the role of natural gas in supporting housing affordability, economic competitiveness, and energy security. The Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce stands ready to support this conversation and reinforce the importance of maintaining energy choice for our community.

Sincerely,

Ian McLean  
President & CEO  
Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce