



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2016

MPP launches petition against draft Liberal plan to ban natural gas

(Perth-Wellington) – The time to act is now, says Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece, in response to reports the provincial government is considering a ban on natural gas. The MPP launched a petition today calling on the government to halt any plan to phase out, discourage or ban the use of natural gas to heat homes and buildings.

“We desperately need affordable energy, including natural gas,” said Pettapiece. “The government needs to know its plan is totally unacceptable to us in Perth-Wellington.” The more people are aware of the government’s intentions, he added, the more likely it is that they will change course.

The Ontario Liberal government’s recently uncovered climate plan would impose new barriers to natural gas access—effectively banning it from all homes and small buildings built in 2030 or later.

Natural gas now accounts for 76 per cent of heating across the province. If forced to convert from natural gas to electric heating, the average household heating bill would rise sharply by \$3,000 a year according to Union Gas. That’s in addition to up-front conversion costs.

The government’s new policy comes as many communities, including the Township of Perth East, are working hard to expand natural gas access.

“The government has promised to invest in natural gas expansion projects, yet now they’re reportedly set to phase out natural gas,” said Pettapiece. “It’s completely contradictory, and proves just how out of touch this government really is.”

Pettapiece’s petition is available on his website: www.pettapiece.ca/petitions. Hard copies are also available in his office. Completed petitions can be returned in their original form to Pettapiece’s constituency office: 55 Lorne Avenue East, Unit 2, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6S4.

Anyone who does not have access to the internet is encouraged to contact Pettapiece’s office to have a petition mailed to them.

Pettapiece has questioned the Minister of Energy in the Ontario legislature about the government’s plans for natural gas. He has also written directly to Premier Wynne on this matter.

- 30 -

Attached: Copy of petition & Pettapiece’s letter to Premier Wynne

Randy Pettapiece, MPP | 519-272-0660 | www.pettapiece.ca