



**Randy Pettapiece, MPP**  
Perth-Wellington

Perth-Wellington Constituency Office  
Stratford, Ontario

May 26, 2016

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A8

### **Open Letter to the Premier of Ontario**

Dear Premier:

Many of my constituents have contacted me regarding your government's deeply flawed draft "Climate Change Action Plan." They are right to be concerned about your \$7-billion draft plan as revealed in media reports. As it was described, you intend to:

- Ban natural gas heating for homes and small buildings built in 2030 or later;
- Ban natural gas from all buildings by 2050; and
- Spend \$3.8-billion in new subsidies to retrofit existing buildings and move them off natural gas.

Many people in Perth-Wellington rely on natural gas—and many more would benefit if the necessary infrastructure were in place, as it is in much of urban Ontario. Your draft plan is already undermining confidence in the viability of future investment in natural gas infrastructure. In addition, your draft plan strangely contradicts current government policies encouraging the use of natural gas. Just last year, your government announced the Natural Gas Access Loan and Natural Gas Economic Development Grant—both targeted to rural and remote areas now unserved by natural gas.

The bottom line is this: your draft plan would mean even higher energy costs for individuals, families, businesses, farms and municipalities. As you know, they are already paying among the highest electricity rates in North America as a direct consequence of your policies. If forced to convert from natural gas to electric heating, the average household heating bill would rise sharply by \$3,000 a year. That's in addition to up-front conversion costs of \$4,500. If it is your position that we in Perth-Wellington can afford this, you are sorely mistaken.

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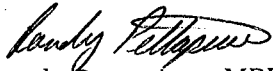
We recognize your draft plan is not yet government policy. However, we in the official opposition have repeatedly asked you to clarify your intentions but you have refused to do so. Your promises not to ban natural gas ring hollow when, at the same time, you are refusing to disavow the effective ban as contained in your draft plan. Your lack of consultation, lack of transparency and lack of interest in the energy needs of rural and small-town Ontario is completely unacceptable.

As you should know, your draft plan comes as many communities, including Perth East, which I am privileged to represent, are actively trying to secure approval for natural gas access. Communities have been working on this over a period of years, and I have consistently supported them. I wrote to you and your ministers of energy and economic development to do everything possible to support natural gas access in Perth East. Last week I questioned your Minister of Energy on your draft plan, but he provided no reassurance whatsoever.

We need you to abandon your draft "Climate Change Action Plan," and we need you to do it now. Our future ability to access clean, affordable energy, including natural gas, hangs in the balance.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Randy Pettapiece, MPP  
Perth-Wellington

c: Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy  
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure  
Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Municipalities in Perth-Wellington