



Resolution
Perth County Council - Regular Meeting
July 7, 2016

Moved by:

Councillor

Behrns

Seconded by:

Councillor

Wilhelm

WHEREAS, the Ontario Provincial Government recently released a five-year Climate Change Action Plan for 2016-2020 which includes a strategy for reducing greenhouse gases and moving to a low-carbon economy;

AND WHEREAS, the Ministry of Energy has identified the need for a balanced mix of clean energy sources, including natural gas, to meet the demand for electricity;

AND WHEREAS the Premier has acknowledged by her remarks at the 2015 OGRA/ROMA conference that "limited access to natural gas is acting as a barrier to growth in too many rural municipalities";

AND WHEREAS, the identified actions in the province's Climate Change Action Plan include a "cap" to limit emissions from natural gas distribution;

AND WHEREAS, Southwestern Ontario is one of Ontario and Canada's most productive agricultural regions;

AND WHEREAS, the production of affordable food from rural Ontario benefits all Ontarians;

AND WHEREAS, access to reliable, affordable energy, including natural gas, is vital for the Ontario agri-food sector and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS, the availability of natural gas is recognized in Ontario as a key component to economic development growth and retention;

AND WHEREAS, municipal governments adopt policies to support the protection, preservation, enhancement and improvement of the natural environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Perth requests:

1. THAT the Ontario government commit to consultations with rural Ontario municipalities, residents, and businesses regarding the design and implementation of the government's Climate Change Action Plan; and



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2. THAT the Premier remain committed to a provincial government that puts a rural lens on its decision-making, and ensure the expansion of natural gas to rural municipalities within the Climate Change Action Plan; and
3. THAT the Ontario government outline in detail how it will financially assist rural Ontario municipalities, residents, and businesses in order to transition to meet provincial targets for reducing greenhouse gases;
4. AND THAT this resolution be provided to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy, Mr. Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth-Wellington, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and all Ontario municipalities.

I, JILLENE BELLCHAMBER-GLAZIER, CLERK
OF THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY
OF PERTH, HEREBY CERTIFY
THIS TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL

SIGNATURE

DATE

J. Bellchamber-Glazier *July 7, 2016*