



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

VIA: Email

Honourable Minister Todd Smith
Minister of Energy
Ministry of Energy
10th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1
todd.smithco@pc.ola.org

May 7, 2024

Dear Minister Smith,

The City of Hamilton is proud to be home to 679 farms, who employ over 2,200 workers while contributing more than \$1.3 billion in gross economic output in 2021. Our economic future is dependent on an agriculture sector that can grow to meet the increasing demand of feeding Canadians and the international community. Hamilton's rich agricultural tradition, and proximity to markets make it an ideal location for growing food. With fertile soils, access to resources, and a supportive farming community, Hamilton offers ample opportunities for agricultural success that we wish to build on.

For our local agriculture industry to meet this demand, whether that be through current operations or expansion efforts, they require the hydro capacity to do so. In speaking with our agriculture industry partners, concerns have been raised as to the available capacity through the Dundas Transformer Station which has impacted the expansions plans of several agricultural operations in the Flamborough community. There has been some success in working with Hydro One and agricultural operators one-one-one, however given the substantial economic potential in addressing these constraints, increasing hydro capacity through the Dundas Transformer Station is a matter of both local and provincial interest. We welcome the opportunity to explore solutions to grow Hamilton's agricultural industry. This growth will support our efforts in attracting new business and investment to our rural communities.

As Mayor, I am sending this letter in the hopes of starting a dialogue how best we can work together to address these concerns and support the growth the agriculture sector right here in Hamilton. If we expect to continue to have a thriving agricultural economy, we need the capacity of the Dundas Transformer Station to be increased and look to you, as our Provincial partners,

to help in these efforts. I look forward to discussing further with you and thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mayor Andrea Horwath
City of Hamilton

CC:

Hon. Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP Huron-Bruce
Aaron Coristine, OGVG, Manager – Science, Regulatory Affairs, and Government Relations
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee, City of Hamilton