

Minister McCarthy

Climate Action Newmarket Aurora is a group of citizens in Newmarket and Aurora that are very concerned about global warming and climate change and have been engaged with federal, provincial, municipal governments and with the residents of our communities to advocate for a clean energy future. You can therefore expect us to be disappointed by the announcement that the province will not be meeting its gas emissions targets by 2030. A target that we believe is underwhelming. You state "...targets are not outcomes. We believe in achievable outcomes, not unrealistic objectives". But unmet targets become poor outcomes if they are not achieved.

You also state that "We can't put people's jobs at risk, We cannot put families' financial, household budgets at risk ...based on some target that is not achievable". Firstly, according to the Auditor General "The cost of not reducing emissions far outweighs the cost of reduction". Secondly, your vision of achievable is wildly uncreative and lacks a sense of innovation and trust in the strength of the Ontario work force. Clean energy alternatives are cheaper than gas plants thereby saving families money. Ontario can become a clean energy powerhouse that would generate jobs and productivity. The distributed nature of wind turbines etc would provide tax revenue for rural communities, and revenue for farmers and rural landowners. It is a win/win/win and all it takes is some imagination and drive from the provincial government to make it happen. As per the Auditor General, there is more risk in not reducing emissions than in actually energizing the economy with clean energy.

If Premier Ford wishes to disengage from US dependence, no better solution than to wind down gas plants that use fracked American gas.

Encouraging and enabling heat pumps and solar panels for new homes, pushing for EV public transportation, **especially school buses**, are all things the provincial government can make happen. These things would stimulate the economy, save consumers money as well as allowing the government to meet and exceed its gas emission targets.

In previous correspondence with the Ministers of the Environment we have provided links to examples of good practice, but you know all this. We need the political will to take advantage of the myriad clean energy solutions that the Ontario economy can provide with net benefit for all.

We ask you to engage with your fellow ministers to create the conditions for a clean and healthy environment and economy

Climate Action Newmarket Aurora

Cc. MPP Michael Parsa - Aurora Oak Ridges Richmond Hill  
MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy - Newmarket Aurora  
Minister of Energy and Mines - Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education - Paul Calandra