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March 20, 2017

Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A1  
**Re: Rural Hydro Rates – Follow up**

Dear Premier Wynne,

The following comments are related to continued and widespread concerns about the unrelenting rise in electricity costs for rural residents.

We watched your introduction of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan with great interest, and we look forward to hearing what the specific rate impacts will be for the various rate classes, and for the full range of utility customers.

You can appreciate that even a broad and significant cost shift may still leave some customers with troubling utility bills. With this in mind, we are seeking your leadership especially with respect to low-use rural customers, who appear to still be on the hook.

In our letter dated February 17, 2017 we outlined our concerns about the challenge of thousands of low-use customers in rural Ontario facing extreme electrical bill increases.

This looming burden remains aggravated by the discriminatory RRRP mechanism which provides a monthly \$60.50 bill credit to some R2 customers, while "Seasonal" customers are faced with a monthly fixed delivery cost in excess of \$117, up from the current \$36.28, with no such bill credit available.

Based on what we can determine from the recent announcements, FOCA calculates that with a complete shift to "All-Fixed" delivery charges, plus the elimination of the Seasonal Class, your proposed "25% discount" would still yield an annual delivery charge of approximately \$1053 for these 84,000 low use customers (up from \$435.00). ***This still represents an increase of over 140% on a major household expenditure, with little or no remedy or way to mitigate the cost, though conservation or otherwise!***

Respectfully, your recent announcements related to "averages", not actual charges; Ontario's electrical customers are due some answers about their actual future bill impacts, along with what solutions or options will be available to help alleviate this tremendous shift. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Terry Kennedy, President, FOCA

Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA

cc: Glenn Thibeault [glenn.thibeault@ontario.ca](mailto:glenn.thibeault@ontario.ca)  
Ian White, FOCA