

January 28, 2015

Dear Ms. Lange;

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding my position vis a vis wind power, specifically, and the Green Energy Act, in general. At the outset, let me be very clear.

Beginning with the speech on the day of my campaign launch, last November, I have committed to the repeal of the Green Energy Act. There would be a moratorium on any government contracts for new sources of power, of any sort, until such time as the IESO projects a shortage of supply and reserve. As you probably know, as a result of the doubling of electricity rates, demand for electricity has dropped, dramatically, since the Liberal government took power and, on a typical day, demand barely equals 50% of the available capacity. We in fact find ourselves with surplus base load generation which requires us to effectively give away power for free at times. Despite that, the government recently issued an RFP for another billion dollars' worth of new renewable power projects. This is not a system that requires minor "tinkering", it requires a wholesale reform – starting with the complete cessation of any new investments in wind power.

To address your questions more specifically:

1. I have attended several public meetings and have had countless private meetings with individuals and groups, in my home riding of

Barrie and all across Ontario, to discuss the irresponsible wind policies of the current government. I look forward to working with Wind Concerns Ontario, Ontario Wind Action, Ontario Wind Resistance, and all other Ontario groups, in the near future.

2. There can be no doubt that wind turbines, when not located in remote, unpopulated regions of the province, have a negative impact on property values. There is also a clear impact on the aesthetics of rural Ontario. Some of those issues are mitigated if turbines are built in remote areas, but, the cost impacts described in my answer below are then exacerbated by the need for expensive long-distance transmission lines.

3. The Green Energy Act has been responsible for the bulk of the increase in the cost of electricity in Ontario, a cost that has doubled since 2003 and which the government, themselves, have indicated will increase by an additional 47% by 2017! That will mean every consumer in the province will have seen their rates triple, in fifteen years, as Ontario has gone from having the lowest electricity rates in North America to the highest. Small wonder this government has driven over 300,000 manufacturing jobs out of the province. When ratepayers are forced to pay up to 13.5¢/kWh for wind power, when they could acquire the same power in the open market for 3.6¢/kWh (the average market price for all of 2014), our electricity system has been mismanaged. And when that same wind power for which Ontario ratepayers have paid 13.5¢/kWh is subsequently sold to

neighbouring provinces and states for as low as 0.71¢/kWh (the average price for all of October 2014), it is time to challenge the fiscal catastrophe that the Liberals have created with the Green Energy Act.

4. While I have every intention of making decisions based on sound science, I don't believe there is need for further study regarding the fiscal and environmental damage being done by wind turbines. Even for those who may question the environmental and health impacts, the economics are beyond debate. Repealing the GEA will be one of the very first legislative initiatives I would undertake, immediately after the next election.

5. My goal would be to repeal the Green Energy Act and ensure that, from that point onwards, as long as we continue to meet the North American reliability standards which we are required to observe, the free market will dictate the construction of private sector energy generation.

6. Much work needs to be done to stem the fiscal and environmental damage done by wind power generation and to ensure that consumers are protected from a repetition of this sort of damaging policy in the future. But I do not believe that the solution to a Liberal ill-conceived policy whose impact was never properly considered, is to replace it with a PC policy that is similarly not properly thought through. So first, I would immediately repeal the Green Energy Act and impose a moratorium on any government contracts for new sources of power, regardless of technology, including a termination of the FIT

Program and the cancellation of any outstanding IESO procurement initiatives. Then I would consult with energy experts, economists, industry, municipalities, affected landowners, and other interested parties to determine the right way forward to ensure an affordable, reliable and competitive supply of electricity for Ontario homeowners and businesses. “Green at any cost” is not, in my view, consistent with the “affordable, reliable and competitive” approach I intend to pursue.

7. The Liberals would have folks forget that it was the PC Party that implemented the plan to close all the coal plants, but the PC plan did not include feed-in-tariffs or massive investments in power surplus to our provincial needs. Our Party is committed to the highest environmental standards, but we know, from local and global experiences, that there is no need to bankrupt consumers and businesses to achieve a healthy environment!

8. Given the largely urban nature of my riding, we have, so far, been spared any wind projects, though there is one in nearby Simcoe County, “Fairfield Wind Farm”, under technical review. Again, thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about the failed Liberal “green energy” strategy and my absolute commitment to returning fiscal sanity to the electricity generation industry in Ontario should I be given the privilege of leading the next government. Being able to offer affordable electricity, to consumers and businesses, is one of the cornerstones of my plan to get Ontario back on track and rebuild our economy.

Regards,

Patrick Brown, MP PC Party Leadership Candidate