

May 6, 2015

Dear Member of Provincial Parliament:

RE: Bill 82, the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Amendment Act (Anti-Fracking)

I am writing to you about Bill 82, the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Amendment Act (Anti-Fracking), 2015. By way of introduction, the Ontario Energy Association (OEA) aspires to be the most credible and trusted voice of the energy sector. We earn our reputation by being an integral and influential part of energy policy development and decision making in Ontario. We represent Ontario's energy leaders that span the full diversity of the energy industry.

Some of our members have already reached out to you and your caucus colleagues to express their opposition to Bill 82. **The OEA supports our members in their position that the ban on fracking proposed by Bill 82 is premature and unnecessary at this time.**

Ontario has safely produced natural gas via conventional means for over a century. While there are currently no commercially viable opportunities for the production of natural gas from shale formations in Ontario, the opportunity may arise for our province to produce larger quantities of natural gas at low cost for the benefit of all Ontarians. **We believe that with proper regulation natural gas can be extracted from shale ("fracked") in a safe, reliable, and environmentally-responsible manner.**

You are likely aware that in 2014 Ontario eliminated coal-fired electricity generation, and with it the air pollution that plagued our province for much of the last decade; this was possible thanks to the construction of new clean-burning natural gas generating stations fuelled in part by affordable natural gas from shale formations. Ontario consumers in 2014 paid roughly 30 per cent less for natural gas service than they did in 2007. This too is the result of the plentiful natural gas extracted from shale that has been flowing into our province.

Having natural gas available from multiple sources increases supply reliability and price competitiveness for consumers. **Natural gas from shale is too big of an opportunity not to get it right, and a ban would only create fear and doubt at a time when Ontario needs stability and certainty: natural gas saves Ontarians and Ontario business roughly \$5 billion per year, and Ontario depends on affordable, reliable energy supplies to sustain the province's economic recovery.**



Ontario Energy Association

Bill 82 is scheduled for 2nd reading tomorrow – Thursday, May 7 – and I urge you to vote to oppose the bill moving forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have questions about any of this material please do not hesitate to contact the OEA's Vice President of Government Relations and Communications, Tina Arvanitis at 647.920.3269 or tina@energyontario.ca.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Huggard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Huggard
President & CEO
Ontario Energy Association