



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association



June 8, 2020

Kirby Dier
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Network and Microgrid Policy
77 Grenville St, 6th Flr.
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

Re: Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area (ERO 019-1503)

On behalf of our collective members, the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) are pleased to have the opportunity to provide our support to narrow the study area and provide input on identifying and preserving a corridor of land in the Northwest Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for future electricity transmission infrastructure. The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario, representing 4,000 member companies organized into a network of 29 local associations across the province. The Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) is the voice of the home building, land development and professional renovation industry in the GTA representing over 1,500 member companies.

The 019-1503 Environmental Registry posting notes that: "Halton, Peel and York are among the fastest growing regions in Ontario. As these regions continue to develop, new transmission infrastructure is anticipated to be required to meet the growing electricity demand over the long-term future. We've identified a long-term need for electricity transmission infrastructure, but the technical scope of the transmission infrastructure required, and the timing of its need, may not be certain for many years. Given the fast growth occurring in these regions, and the sensitive environmental features in the area, it is important to keep a viable transmission infrastructure option open by identifying a viable corridor today." OHBA and BILD are supportive of critical long-term infrastructure planning to ensure a viable transmission corridor required to meet long-term demand.

OHBA and BILD are also strong supporters of *A Place to Grow: Growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* to ensure we have adequate and well-planned land supply to support future housing supply. OHBA and BILD support provincial policy that supports the co-location of linear infrastructure which has the potential to mitigate the impact on surrounding agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas. OHBA and BILD are also supportive of the planning that is already underway by the Ministry of Transportation related to the GTA West Transportation Corridor, which as the ERO 019-1503 posting notes, offers an opportunity to consider co-location.

The current ERO 019-1503 consultation by the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines is an opportunity to further refine and narrow the area of interest and thus the lands identified for corridor protection. The narrowed area in ERO 019-1503 largely corresponds to MTO's narrowed 2019 Focused Area Analysis ("2019 FAA") for the GTA West Highway. OHBA and BILD recommend that the provincial government advance this planning as expediently as possible while also advancing plans to build the GTA West Corridor. Furthermore, as the province transitions to post pandemic economic recovery, this is a significant opportunity

to release currently protected lands through a narrower and more refined corridor. These potential employment, residential and mixed use development lands are in strategically located areas in the City of Vaughan, the City of Brampton, Town of Caledon and Halton Hills that could quickly contribute to post pandemic job creation and economic recovery. OHBA and BILD recommend that now is the time to make critical infrastructure decisions to move forward not only with the release of frozen lands, but the construction of the GTA West Corridor. Any further delays to the completion of the corridor studies prevent future housing supply and much needed jobs. For example, on Block 66 alone (where lands are currently frozen in the study area), which is but one development parcel on the entire corridor, an estimated 8,500 new jobs will be created by releasing these lands.

OHBA and BILD members are very pleased and supportive of Premier Ford's strong commitment to a post-pandemic economic plan, to the construction of the GTA West Corridor and to long-term transmission infrastructure. We are therefore supportive of the ERO 019-1503 proposal to refine and narrow the protected GTA NW utility corridor and the release of some of the currently protected lands within the wider corridor for potential development that conform to the Growth Plan, 2019 and the PPS, 2020.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be consulted in this process. If you have any questions or would like schedule a time to meet with our associations, please feel free to contact one of the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Mike Collins-Williams
Director of Policy, OHBA



Paula Tenuta
SVP Policy & Advocacy, BILD

Copy:

Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, Hon. Greg Rickford
Minister of Transportation, Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Associate Minister of Transportation, Hon. Kinga Surma