

Ministry of Energy

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January 27, 2023

Ms Jane Wilson
President
Wind Concerns Ontario
president@windconcernsontario.ca

Dear Ms Wilson:

Thank you for your letter about the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) competitive procurement processes, specifically regarding the requirement for municipal support for new energy projects to go ahead.

Our government recognizes that support from local communities is vital to new-build energy projects and expects proponents to engage local communities to seek their support for the proposed projects.

Our government's Green Energy Repeal Act in 2018 gave powers back to municipalities regarding how land use for renewable energy is regulated and approved in Ontario, including restoring municipal siting authority under the Planning Act over new proposed projects.

In recent months, as project proponents look for sites to develop approximately 4,000 megawatts of generation and energy storage, I have heard from multiple municipal councils and other stakeholders that they would like the IESO to be explicit that municipal council support is required for the approval of projects proposed on sites that are located within their boundaries.

For years, our government has been fully supportive of this stance and that's why in my letter to the IESO of December 23, 2022, I have asked the IESO to be clear as it moves forward on the Expedited RFP Process, LT1 RFP and other upcoming competitive procurements.

I believe that the submission of a council resolution by a proponent or counterparty to the IESO demonstrating support for the project would be the only basis from which to conclude that an elected council's support on behalf of the municipality has been obtained.

Thank you again for writing and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Smith', written over a large, sweeping flourish.

Todd Smith
Minister