

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

February 24, 2015

Hon. Bob Chiarelli  
Minister of Energy  
Hearst Block, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Chiarelli,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), we would like to express our support for the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program and ask for it to become permanent.

As you are aware, the NIER program assists northern Ontario's large industrial electricity consumers to reduce costs, sustain jobs and maintain global competitiveness. Recipients receive a rebate of two cents per kilowatt hour with individual rebates capped at the previous year's consumption levels or \$20 million per year per company.

Industry feedback from this program has been extremely positive and supportive within our region. During a time when energy costs are high and have the potential to threaten the economic competitiveness for an industry, the NIER program helps to mitigate these threats. The program benefits the industrial consumer by helping to lower costs and also assists the local economy by helping to ensure industries are sustainable and competitive over the long-term.

As part of the 2011 election platform, the government committed to making the program permanent. We ask that that the government fulfill an election promise and ensure the permanency of the NIER program, which will greatly enhance industries ability to plan and invest in the future.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek  
President

cc: Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines  
Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry