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January 6, 2014

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

Once again, as a Northern Ontario Rural Mayor, I was totally shocked by your Finance Minister's suggestion of a 3 to 10 cent per litre tax increase on our gasoline, a possible HST increase and a new business tax be implemented to provide funding for transit in the GTA. Apparently, there is a committee advising him.

I am willing to bet that there are not any rural members on this select committee. Who are these people and what qualifications do they have to truly represent rural Ontario?

Do these committees simply "write us off" as insignificant partners in Ontario politics? Do they expect us to just go along with any decisions made without our participation? There really is life beyond the GTA.

We in rural Ontario already pay 14.5 cents on every litre to subsidize the government coffers without much return. We may not have buses, streetcars and subways in rural Ontario, but, we do have our very particular transit systems made up of our roads, bridges and culverts.

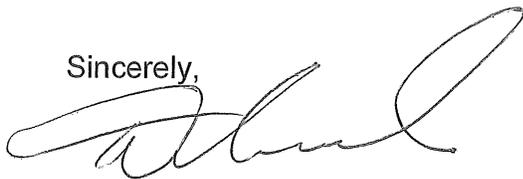
I am not willing to have my residents charged an additional tax in order to subsidize metro Toronto transit and I am certain that I would receive unanimous support on this stand.

We are constantly being bombarded with regulatory changes, increased costs and downloading without anyone at the provincial government level ever looking at the cumulative effects of these changes which are being suggested by uninformed policy advisors.

Our small rural staffs have to work on many of these downloads during the day filling out reports and then they are having to stay late to do our own work.

This Gas Tax move seems to me to be another assault on our rural municipalities and, if it must be, it should be regionalized and implemented for those municipalities with the problem.

Sincerely,



Bill Vrebosch
Mayor

cc. Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs
Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Honourable Jay Aspin, MP
Honourable Vic Fedeli, MPP
Honourable Tim Hudak,
Honourable Angela Horvath
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