



February 22, 2012

To all members and Conference delegates,

In recent weeks, opponents of the Green Energy Act, and wind power in particular, have proposed that delegates walk-out on Premier McGuinty at the 2012 ROMA OGRA Conference, unless a moratorium is placed on wind turbines. While ROMA appreciates the concern and frustration that inspired this proposal, it believes the proposal is short-sighted.

We invited the Premier to our conference, we appreciate his decision to come, and we will respectfully listen to what he has to say.

As a group, Ontario's municipalities have worked very hard over many years to build a relationship with the Government of Ontario that is based on open doors and frank discussion. The mature and respectful relationship that makes these exchanges possible provides us with our greatest opportunity to achieve meaningful progress.

Currently, municipalities are working with the Province, and the Premier, to address pressing challenges for all Ontarians, and for rural and northern communities in particular. These include a global recession; economic development; the continued commitment to upload \$1.5 billion in annual provincial costs by 2018; the future of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF); funding for roads and bridges; the rising costs of emergency services; and more than 100 fiscal restraint recommendations within the recent Drummond report.

Ontario residents are counting on us all to work cooperatively and productively. The ROMA OGRA Conference plays an important role by encouraging open channels of communication between our provincial and municipal governments. That is why we invite the Premier each year, that is why he accepts, and that is why Ontario Premiers will always be welcome at our Conference.

Sincerely,

ROMA's Board of Directors