

Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Whitney Block, Room 5630
5th Floor, 99 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 1W1

August 30, 2019

Dear Minister Rickford,

I am writing to you on the date of your government's self-imposed deadline, August 30th, on which gasoline retailers in the province of Ontario are required to display stickers on gasoline pumps showing the impact of the federal carbon tax.

In concert with our partners at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the GNCC believes that a carbon tax is a cost-effective way to reduce Canadian emissions and, if wisely applied, can reduce the regulatory burden on Canadian households and businesses.

We have welcomed the commitments of your government to reduce the debt and deficit, to create a business-friendly climate, to tackle issues such as healthcare shortfalls, and to set a hard target for cutting red tape to three-quarters of its current level by 2022.

You will undoubtedly understand our disappointment, then, at the decision by the Government of Ontario to increase the burden of red tape upon Ontario's gasoline retailers by requiring them to display these stickers, and by leveling punitive and disproportionate fines on non-compliant businesses.

In addition, many Chamber members not just in Niagara but across Ontario view these stickers as partisan and feel that the requirement for gas station operators to display partisan messaging is a violation of their rights and freedoms.

The GNCC echoes the message of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and asks that you remove the section of the *Federal Carbon Tax Transparency Act, 2019* mandating the display of these stickers.

We remain at your disposal and are eager to work with the Government of Ontario towards data-driven, evidence-based policy that will strengthen our economy and our province.

Sincerely,

Mishka Balsom
President & CEO, GNCC

