



January 9, 2012

Mayor and Members of City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Happy New Year:

On behalf of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, I am submitting this letter to express the Chamber's support for growing jobs in our community through the clean energy sector. Specifically, this letter supports the Lake Ontario Offshore Network (LOON) and its efforts to see the development of off-shore wind turbines in eastern Lake Ontario. A significant number of Hamilton businesses are involved in the clean energy sector, including wind energy, and are poised to benefit from this project and potentially other developments. In the future, perhaps more Hamilton businesses could benefit from growth in the clean energy sector. In short, Hamilton has an opportunity to become a leader in the clean energy sector, especially in the manufacturing and transportation industries, providing valuable jobs to our community.

The Chamber applauds the efforts of the City's Economic Development Division in their work in the clean energy sector and the leadership that staff is bringing to the Golden Horseshoe Strategic Energy Alliance. The City's Economic Development strategy includes the clean energy sector and it's critical to stay the course and grow this sector in Hamilton for future job creation. There are a number of elements to clean energy, with wind energy representing just one part of the sector. However, the motion that City Council passed on September 28, 2011 that requested the Province ban industrial wind turbines has sent a conflicting message to the industry about Hamilton's overall support for the clean energy sector, one that could impact jobs in our community over both the short and long-terms. We respectfully request that Council either re-consider the motion or invite delegations to speak to the issue.

We understand that there are concerns in our community about the potential health effects and other questions about the wind energy sector, and the Chamber is prepared to help with the education and communication process around wind turbines. Already through the Energy and Environment Committee, we have engaged a group of MBA students from McMaster's DeGroote School of Business's Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Class to develop background information and chart a course for future communications about wind turbines. In the coming months, the Chamber will be hosting workshops about the clean energy sector and opportunities for Hamilton. The motion has also been discussed at the Board and the following Chamber Divisions and Committees: Glanbrook, Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals, Energy and Environment, Innovation and Technology, Government Affairs and Business Development. Additional input and discussion will be undertaken in the coming months at the Division and Committee meetings about wind energy and the clean energy sector.

The Hamilton Chamber would be pleased to address Council on this important jobs opportunity.

Sincerely,

David Adames  
President and CEO