**August 23, 2026**

**Sent via email**

**The Honourable Doug Ford**
Premier of Ontario
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce**
Minister of Energy and Mines
Ministry of Energy and Mines
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1

**The Honourable Todd McCarthy**
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

**The Honourable Sam Oosterhoff**
Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries
Ministry of Energy and Mines
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1

**Dear Premier Ford, Minister Lecce, Minister McCarthy and Associate Minister Oosterhoff:**

**Re: Protecting Ontario's Industrial Competitiveness**

On behalf of the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO), I want to thank you for your leadership at what has become a defining moment for Ontario's industrial economy. With trade talks now broken off and the United States imposing sweeping new tariffs on Canadian goods, the challenge facing our members has moved from uncertainty to open confrontation.

Premier, your clear-eyed stance that "no deal is better than a bad deal," and your insistence that Canada not back down in the face of economic coercion, is exactly the resolve this moment demands.

I particularly want to thank Minister Lecce, Associate Minister Oosterhoff, and Minister McCarthy and your respective staff for your ongoing leadership and willingness to work collaboratively with AMPCO to identify practical solutions to the electricity cost pressures facing Ontario's large industrial consumers. Our recent discussions have demonstrated a clear understanding of the seriousness and urgency of these challenges, and we appreciate your commitment to finding solutions.

**Premier, AMPCO strongly supports the direction set out in your August 17 letter to Prime Minister Carney to consider temporarily exempting tariff-impacted industries from Ontario's Emissions Performance Standards (EPS).**

That direction is even more important today than when it was written last week. The sectors now squarely in the crosshairs of U.S. tariff action - autos and auto parts, steel, and manufacturing - are core AMPCO members, and this week's threat to escalate duties on automobiles and steel to 50 per cent only sharpens the exposure. We welcome your recognition that reducing regulatory costs is a lever Ontario can pull now to protect industrial investment and jobs at home, even as the trade front remains volatile.

We believe a temporary EPS exemption could provide meaningful and timely relief to several AMPCO members facing significant tariff exposure, and we encourage the government to move forward with this initiative. **At the same time, we respectfully recommend that the government consider additional measures to ensure meaningful relief reaches as broad a cross-section of Ontario's industrial base as possible.**

Some major industrial electricity consumers, including much of Ontario's mining sector, may not be considered tariff-impacted. Other companies currently recycle all or a significant portion of their EPS compliance payments into capital investments and decarbonization projects and may therefore receive limited incremental benefit from an exemption.

For these reasons, AMPCO continues to recommend:

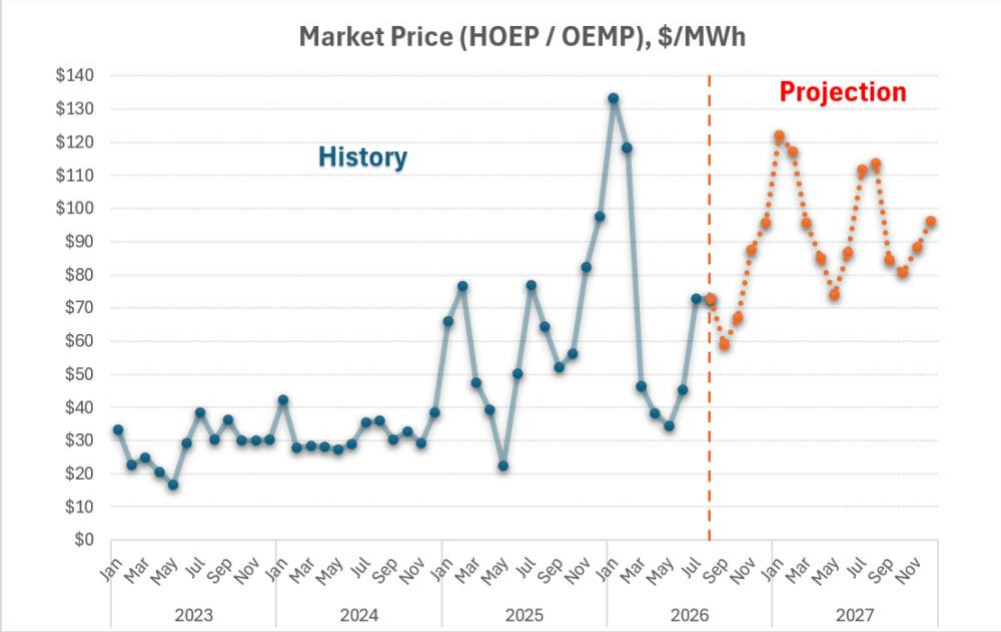
1. **A direct, time-limited industrial electricity rate mitigation program** to help Ontario's large industrial consumers manage the significant increase in market electricity prices occurring during the nuclear refurbishment period (funded through savings from the Comprehensive Electricity Plan); and
2. **A temporary adjustment to the EPS benchmark applicable to natural gas-fired electricity generation** to substantially reduce or eliminate the carbon cost flowing into Ontario's market electricity price. We believe the same principle supporting EPS relief

for tariff-impacted industries should apply to electricity generation, particularly during the nuclear refurbishment period when Ontario will rely more heavily on natural gas generation. This would extend meaningful electricity cost relief across Ontario's industrial base.

These measures would complement the proposed EPS relief for tariff-impacted industries. Together, they would provide a more comprehensive response to the significant competitiveness pressures facing Ontario industry and provide meaningful support to a broader cross-section of Ontario's industrial economy, including the many operations that will feel the second-order effects of this trade dispute even if they are not directly named on a tariff list.

**Timing is now critical.** Last winter's market electricity price increases were already extremely difficult for Ontario industry to absorb. With Pickering B beginning its refurbishment outage, Ontario will have less nuclear generation available and greater reliance on higher-cost resources during periods of system stress. This creates a significant risk of further upward pressure on market prices and price spikes potentially comparable to or greater than those experienced last winter. The graph below illustrates the challenge Ontario industry will likely face this winter as a result of spiking market electricity prices that will severely impact Ontario's industrial competitiveness.

**Ontario Market Electricity Price - History and Projection**




For that reason, AMPCO strongly recommends that the government move expeditiously to finalize and implement its response. In particular, any EPS exemption for tariff-impacted

industries should be structured to apply to the 2025 compliance year and implemented in advance of the applicable 2025 compliance deadlines, ensuring that eligible industries receive immediate relief rather than having to wait until a subsequent compliance cycle.

We believe the proposed EPS relief for tariff-impacted industries, a time-limited industrial rate mitigation program, and an adjustment to the EPS treatment of natural gas-fired generation need to be in place **before this winter's peak demand season**.

Ontario industry is being asked to navigate an exceptional convergence of challenges: an active and escalating trade war, direct tariff exposure across our largest sectors, increasing global competition and sharply rising electricity costs – all at once. These pressures are already affecting investment decisions and, if left unaddressed, risk undermining the competitiveness of industrial operations and jobs across the province.

The trade war itself, and the tariffs driving it, are largely outside Ontario's control. Electricity policy is not. It is one of the most direct and immediate levers the province holds to shield its industrial base while the broader fight with Washington plays out.

AMPCO appreciates and supports your leadership in standing up for Ontario industry and, in particular, your willingness to advance measures such as temporary EPS relief to protect the competitiveness of tariff-impacted industries. As further details emerge, AMPCO will continue to work with our members and your government to assess the implications for different industrial sectors and to advance measures that support the competitiveness of Ontario's industrial base.

Thank you for standing up for industry in Ontario, and for meeting this moment with the strength it requires. AMPCO's appreciation extends as well to Minister Lecce, Minister McCarthy and Associate Minister Oosterhoff for the continued leadership, engagement and collaboration with AMPCO. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to put timely and effective measures in place that protect Ontario's industrial competitiveness during this exceptionally challenging period.

Sincerely,



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