

Dear City Council, Mayor Kelly, and Mayoral Candidates:

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce believes energy has a crucial role in the future growth and sustainability of our city. The Chamber was an active participant in the 2005 Regional Plan, urging the creation of such a plan to guide the City's future growth and opportunity.

The Chamber commends the City's efforts thus far on energy projects, such as the Alderney 5 geothermal project in Dartmouth, and programs supporting energy efficient buildings. Programs like these are a step in the right direction. However, much more work and focus are needed for our City to become a true "Energy City". To make Halifax more competitive in this global economy, we need to embrace progressive and sustainable energy policies enabling new economic opportunities and benefits. We need to leverage the city's leadership position as a leader of the emerging Green Economy by offering competitive and knowledge-intensive products and services with a net zero environmental impact.

The Chamber's Energy Advisory Committee felt that one key component missing from the 2005 Regional Plan was a focused approach to energy security and energy sustainability. We have developed a position paper – "Input to the Regional Planning Strategy"- with key themes and recommendations that can form the foundation of a defined Energy Chapter in the revised Regional Plan.

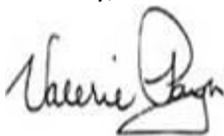
The position paper has been submitted to city staff and the City Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainability, as well as the Standing Committee on Community Planning and Economic Development. In addition, a roundtable with key stakeholders, including City staff, was held June 5th presenting the recommendations in the position paper. Feedback has been very positive to date.

We understand that city staff will be working on Regional Plan input over the summer months and are looking to hear from you on the status of the Chamber's Energy section input. At the minimum we are looking to see energy security entrenched in the Regional Plan review. Optimally, are looking to see a chapter in the Regional Plan focused on Energy Security and the opportunities it presents for our City.

We would like to receive a response in the next few weeks to ensure attention is given to this important issue. Also, you may wish to meet with the Chamber Energy Advisory Committee to discuss our recommendations in more detail and we would be happy to do so.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



President & CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
Phone: 481-1229
valerie@halifaxchamber.com