



April 22, 2016

Mr. Don Tiffney GDF Suez Canada Services LP 105 Commerce Valley Drive West #410 Markham, Ontario L3T 7W3

Dear Mr. Tiffney:

We are in receipt of your letter of February 29, 2016 sent to various landowners where your company is servicing wind turbines. As representatives of the hunting and conservation community, we find the tone of this letter to be exceptionally troublesome. In our view, the letter clearly suggests landowners who have a relationship with your company should ban hunting on property within some undefined proximity to turbines. We perceive this to be a serious affront to hunters and hunting.

Hunters, infrastructure and property have coexisted very well in this landscape for generations. Hunters have hunted around homes, barns, hydro lines and other properties for decades. To assert that hunting can't coexist with industrial wind development is a significant over-reaction.

The incident where a turbine was fired upon was unlikely to be associated with legal hunting. There is no reason why a hunter would point/shoot a rifle (not legally used in bird hunting) skyward towards a tower. From our vantage point and without a comprehensive review of the circumstances, we would most certainly view this as an act of vandalism, not as a by-product of hunting.

Both of our organizations strongly object to acts of vandalism, damage to property, carelessness or putting people in harm's way, and spend a great deal of time and effort to ensure that people hunt safely and responsibly. We believe people who break the law should face legal recourse, and believe it is well within your right and that of the property owners to work with local law enforcement to investigate the cases and seek whatever remedy the law affords.

However, your suggestion that landowners should ban all hunting is a threat to our organizations' mission and membership and, as such, we take it very seriously. The letter and the tone it conveys seems to be reactionary and without due consideration of effects. The net result of this prohibition could impact thousands of acres of land, unnecessarily restricting access to thousands of Ontario hunters, hunters who hunt legally, with appropriate respect and deference to private property. The elimination of hunting in those areas will also impact on all forms of wildlife, given that hunting is one of the tools used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to control wildlife populations. Instead of prosecuting people who committed an act of vandalism, you will be punishing the good people in the communities where you work.

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If this is the posture that your company continues to articulate, we will have to share that with our members, the outdoor media and others who are not currently aware that wind development on their lands or in their communities means a potential future prohibition on hunting. If you are willing to consider alternate strategies to maintain hunting and ensure the safety of your turbines and infrastructure, we stand together, willing to work with you to that end.

Sincerely,

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