

**Honourable Minister Greg Rickford,
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines,
Ontario.**

TG021/EFC/MOENDM/IESO
August 17th, 2020

Respected Minister,

SaveOnEnergy – Small Business Lighting & Retrofit programs
Extension of Application deadline

Electro-Federation Canada (EFC) (<https://www.electrofed.com/>) is a national, not-for-profit industry association that represents over 220 member companies that manufacture, distribute, market and sell a wide range of electrical products. EFC members contribute over \$10B to the Canadian economy and employ over 40,000 workers in over 1,300 factories, locations or establishments across the country.

The members of EFC range from skilled manufacturing, licenced electricians, professional salespeople, warehousing to logistics people – all employed in a field that contributes greatly to the success of the manufacturing engine of Ontario. This industry is driven by producing and promoting electrical products and solutions across Ontario, from manufacturing facilities to downtown condominiums, our products and services are found everywhere.

Our members are seeking your support to help restart the Ontario economy and minimize the impact of COVID19 crisis on the manufacturers in the Commercial and Industrial sector.

Electro-Federation Canada's members closely work with utilities across Canada, supplying high quality and high efficacy products in the Country. Energy efficiency is at the heart of the lighting industry and every new product is designed with increased efficacy in mind. Our members have invested resources in accompanying their customers to achieve the best energy consumption reduction; using incentive programs as an additional tool weather in retrofit or new constructions projects.

As such, The SaveOnEnergy programs, administered by the IESO, have been a boon for our industry; by promoting further employment in our field and by getting products manufactured, serviced and installed across Ontario. (Every \$1 million in Energy Efficiency projects generates \$3-\$4 million in economic growth and 13 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in energy efficiency). The SaveOnEnergy programs have made our industry more competitive and profitable, allowing it to hire more people as a result (as reported by Pembina*).

The pace and impact of the IESO programs have been negatively affected by delays caused as a result of the COVID19 crisis and consequentially, numerous projects that were scheduled for installation in 2020 are being delayed and/or cancelled. These actions have proven to cause layoffs and wide-ranging unemployment in and amongst our members.

* <https://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-efficiency-infoqraphic-2017.pdf>

The SaveOnEnergy **Small Business Lighting & Retrofit programs** are scheduled to end application acceptance by December 2020. Understandably, many of the projects and investment plans have been delayed and will not be reviewed until the beginning of 2021, negatively impacting the ability of program users to access incentive funds from the IESO. These applicants are telling us that without the incentives in their current format, many of the projects and subsequent employment will not occur as a result of the current program deadlines.

While we appreciate that these programs have timelines that need to be respected, the industry is requesting for a delay of the application deadline from December 2020 to May 31/2021, allowing time to re-engage with applicants and their energy saving plans.

EFC would humbly highlight that this request does not extend any further funding that was originally allocated for this program but allows our members to promote the existing program and re-employ the people that were laid off as a result of COVID19.

We look forward to receiving a favorable response to our request.

Sincerely yours,



Gurvinder Chopra
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Encl: Copy of the letter previously sent to IESO.

Copied:

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