

# Remarks to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

*April 19, 2016*

*Regarding Bill 151, An Act to enact the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2015 and the Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2015 and to repeal the Waste Diversion Act, 2002*

**Alex Gill**, Executive Director, ONEIA

**Randy Cluff**, co-chair, ONEIA Resource Recovery Committee

**ALEX**

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Ontario's more than 3,000 environment and cleantech companies, Randy and I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here today. The firms we represent occupy a "sweet spot" in the province's economy – they create products, services and technologies that improve our environment, and they make a profit and create jobs. I know you have been hearing from a broad range of stakeholders today and tomorrow, so we are pleased to offer the perspective of the companies that will be developing the technology, the products and the services that will help make a waste-free Ontario a reality.

For its 25-year history, the Ontario Environment Industry Association has always viewed what we used to call "waste" as an important resource that – if we get the policy environment correct – we can support the adoption of new technologies, spur job creation and produce much better environmental outcomes.

In the fall, we struck a special working group under the guidance of Jennifer Baron of Covanta and Mike Deprez of Walker Environmental to engage ONEIA members from across Ontario. This group conducted a detailed assessment of the proposed bill and submitted their ideas via the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry. We have distributed those comments to you here today and in a moment I will invite Randy to offer some detailed comments about their recommendations, based on his 20+ years of experience as an executive in the sector.

I want to draw your attention to one key aspect of the waste policy equation. At ONEIA we are big fans of policies that provide multiple benefits – and waste policy, if done correctly, will do just that. We know we have to properly deal with the waste our households and businesses generate in order to protect the environment. But if we can set the right conditions, not only can we generate environmental benefits but also encourage made-in-Ontario innovation and create jobs in the process. The jobs created when we extract and repurpose materials from our waste stream are the types of jobs Ontario needs more of. On one end of the spectrum, the technology, service and design side are high value-added jobs that create solutions that the world can use. On the other end of the spectrum, solutions to waste create

very “sticky” and local jobs that are labour intensive, well-paid and very difficult to export.

If you want to know what those potential jobs look like, I would recommend you look at just one of the ONEIA members in this area – and that is Walker Industries in Niagara Region. The careers portion of their website has a notice on it that should be much more common in Ontario – it says “we’re hiring all the time!” And those jobs run from Millwrights and AutoCAD designers right down to truck drivers and general labourers.

I’m now going to ask my colleague Randy Cluff, from CCI Biofuels, to offer a few examples from just one part of the waste stream.

**RANDY**

*RANDY OFFERS A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE FROM ORGANICS.*

**ALEX**

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, with the right policy equation we can see an Ontario in just a few years that has achieved its environmental goals AND encouraged considerable innovation and job creation. Ontario’s environment and cleantech firms are your allies in that future. Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today and we welcome any questions you might have.