GROUND THE FLIGHT TAX

TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS, the Liberal Government has proposed a 148 per cent increase in the province's aviation fuel tax over the next four year; and

WHEREAS, the tax increase will mean the average family can pay an estimated extra $50 to $200 for the flight on top of their tickets; and

WHEREAS, the massive tax increase: 1. Punishes consumers and communities; 2. Makes Ontario a less attractive destination to invest and expand into; and 3. Compound an already large competitiveness gap with neighbouring U.S. airports; and

WHEREAS, the flight tax increase flies in the face of a Liberal election promise of no tax increases on the middle class; and

WHEREAS, the proposed tax increase will drive away over 400,000 air travellers out of Ontario when three million Ontarians are already crossing the border annually to fly from U.S. airports; and

WHEREAS this tax increase will impact many industries across Ontario including manufacturers, freight and tourism including hotels, restaurants, travel agents and tour operators, among others who support the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Alberta, Quebec and Saskatchewan have eliminated international flight fuel taxes, while Ontario's rate is set to become one of the highest fuel taxes in the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fred Lazar of the Schulich School of Business indicates in his study that this tax increase will cost the province up to 2,907 full-time jobs and decrease provincial GDP by up to $97 million annually.

WE the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

1. ***Ground the flight tax increases pending meaningful consultation and a full study of their adverse economic impacts before it's too late to reverse the damage to Ontario's economy.***

Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature

Please return to MPP Michael Harris for presentation in the Ontario Legislature
4281 King Street East, Unit 4, Kitchener, Ontario, N2P 2E9
Phone: 519.954.8679 Fax: 519.571.8660