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The Toronto Industry Network

February 27, 2015

E-MAILED

Mayor John Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall,
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5H 2N2.

Attn: Ms. Jennifer Forkes

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee:

Re: EX3.1 – Rate Supported Budgets – Toronto Water

The Toronto Industry Network is writing in support of the Budget Committee recommendation to have the Economic Development Division lead a comparison study of the various levies and incentives the City applies to manufacturers. As we understand it, this study to be done for the 2016 budget cycle will benchmark Toronto against other North American centres and provide a policy framework that will help our City compete. TIN will be pleased to participate in the study process.

While it is expected the study will address the ongoing issue of Block 2 rate increases, we draw to your attention that the net 8% increase to the Block 1 and 2 rates for 2015 is on top of the 9% annual increased experience by the Block 2 users for six years. This puts real pressure on operating budgets and margins which are key benchmarks when comparing one facility against another.

The City administration wants to address Toronto's unemployment issue head-on and its debilitating effect on our socio-economic fabric. This is a good thing. However we suggest increasing the levies against a number of our City's key employers and wealth generators is counterproductive to the goal of keeping and growing jobs.

With a lower rate increase for the Block 2 customers, Toronto would be sending a strong message of confidence to its manufacturing community. We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Andrew Judge
President, Toronto Industry Network