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November 30, 2020

Hon. Paul Calandra, MPP
Government House Leader
Room 223, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
Delivered via e-mail

Dear Minister Calandra:

Re: Expedited Passage of G236 Supporting Local Businesses Act, 2020

On Thursday November 26, your government finally tabled legislation to address the issue of delivery charges charged to restaurants by third-party app based food delivery platforms for delivery or pick-up orders. I am writing to request that we move this Bill to Committee as quickly as possible, with Second Reading limited to 15 minutes (five minutes per recognized party and five minutes for the independents as a group), so we can hear from affected small businesses and make appropriate amendments.

Although Liberal and PC MPPs made attempts to hastily pass Bill 236 before the House could properly review the bill, a closer look revealed that this proposed legislation would only provide relief to selected restaurants in lockdown regions and fails to extend this support to other areas of the province. Bill 236 will not help a single restaurant outside of Toronto or Peel even though restaurants across Ontario have been calling for this change to help them stay afloat in these challenging times. New Democrats will be seeking amendments to ensure these basic protections are available to all restaurants in the province and apply permanently.

New Democrats will do everything we can to quickly get this bill to Committee so that the necessary changes can be made to better support local restaurants across Ontario. We hope we can count on PC and Liberal MPPs to facilitate these revisions to ensure that local business get the help they desperately need.

Sincerely,

GILLES BISSON, MPP

Timmins

Official Opposition House Leader

Cc: John Fraser, MPP, House Leader, Liberal Party; Mike Schreiner, MPP, Leader, Green Party