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Reply Attention of David G. Butler
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Date February 15, 2005

The Honourable Jim Watson, MPP
Minister of Consumer and Business Services
250 Yonge Street, 35th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 2N5

Dear Minister Watson:

Re: Ontario Business Law Reform Initiative

As acknowledged at our meeting of January 18, 2005, the long-overdue modernization of Ontario's business laws is of critical importance to ensuring that our Province remains competitive when business leaders decide where to locate in the North American markets.

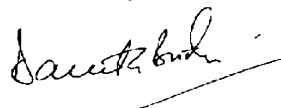
In accordance with your advice to us, we are pleased to provide the attached *Proposal for Ontario Business Law Reform* for your consideration. Enclosed also are several additional documents which may serve to provide further context. When you and your Cabinet colleagues meet in the near future to shape the legislative agenda for the coming year, we urge you to give this initiative the attention it deserves.

While American states and other Canadian jurisdictions are making it their business to provide a competitive legislative regime for the business and financial sectors, taking care in particular to reflect the realities of e-commerce and the modern marketplace, Ontario is lagging behind with an outdated regime. It has not been "leading edge" since 1983.

We would be pleased to work with you and your colleagues to advance this important initiative. This effort is a *pro bono* undertaking on our part to advance the competitiveness of the Province and to ensure that Ontario is recognized globally as a top tier corporate commercial jurisdiction.

Your Government has a record of working to keep Ontario ahead of the curve on many fronts. We strongly encourage you to adopt business law reform as one of them.

Yours truly,



David G. Butler

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Enclosures: ♦Proposal for Ontario Business Law Reform
♦Commentaries on business law reform
♦ "Ontario's Corporate Laws Suffering Benign Neglect, Experts Say", Terrence Belford, *The Globe and Mail*, September 6, 2004

Encl. cc.:

Premier McGuinty
Priorities and Planning Board of Cabinet
Management Board of Cabinet
Legislation and Regulations Committee of Cabinet
Sue Corke, Deputy Minister, MCBS
Terry Irwin, Manager, Corporate Policy, MCBS
Derek Nighbor, Executive Assistant to the Minister, MCBS
Nicolas Todd, Special Assistant (Policy) to the Minister, MCBS
Joe Belfontaine, Special Assistant (Stakeholder Relations) to the Minister, MCBS