

**From:** [BoardSec](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2015-0179  
**Date:** September 29, 2015 10:02:52 AM

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**Sent:** September-28-15 9:50 PM  
**To:** BoardSec  
**Subject:** Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2015-0179

## LETTER OF COMMENT

### Comments:

I do not agree with the Union Gas application on behalf of the Government of Ontario to have existing Union Gas customers pay for the construction of uneconomical small community pipeline extensions. The Government of Ontario is presently announcing their plans for infrastructure spending for Ontario. The Premier, in Question Period, stated that following the International Plowing Match, she spoke to farmers who wanted Natural Gas connections, and her government would provide that infrastructure. Apparently Union Gas was told something different and were not to tap into provincial funding.

The effect of this Application would be to create a stranded debt of about \$156 million for pipeline expansion, and likely add a new debit line on existing customers bills. Existing customers have already paid for their pipeline connections under the formulas of the time. These new connections do not meet the formula requirements. Further work needs to be done to create revenue in the communities being served by the expansions, perhaps greenhouses, community heating and electricity generation by gas or waste to energy, to allow them to pay for their connection.

The Government is the proponent of this capital construction, and the proponent should pay. The Government is asking Union Gas to violate the Ontario Consumer Protection Act, which in 2005 supposedly made negative option billing illegal. The government and the OEB are asking Union Gas to add charges to existing customers bills, for unwanted and unrequested additional billing that absolutely does not benefit them. I believe that is in violation of the intent of the laws of Ontario.

The existing customers of Union Gas may already be facing other financial impacts as interprovincial existing gas pipelines are converted to ship non natural gas petroleum products reducing the capacity of gas deliveries to eastern Canada. We do not need to be saddled with the expense of capital pipeline investment that has no foreseeable gain or profit.

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