



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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March 14, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Kristen,

Re: EB-2015-0363 Consultation to Develop a Regulatory Framework for Natural Gas Distributors' Cap and Trade Compliance Plans

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) submits this request to participate in the consultation to develop cap and trade compliance plans for natural gas distributors. The OFA is the largest voluntary farm organization in Canada, advocating the interests of over 36,000 farm members, rural county and regional federations, and affiliated agricultural sector commodity groups.

OFA members have a substantial interest in this proceeding, including all issues that affect rates and services available to them. Energy represents a leading agricultural cost of production and ensuring affordable, sustainable and reliable energy options for Ontario farmers is very important. While the OFA understands that rural farm businesses and communities are at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to energy options in Ontario, we also recognize the importance our members place on conservation demand management and reducing GHG emissions.

In light of these factors and OFA's participation in EB-2016-0004 - A Generic Review of Natural Gas Expansion in Rural Ontario, and the pending review EB-2015-0179 - Union Gas's proposal to expand natural gas infrastructure in rural Ontario, we feel that is important to participate in the natural gas cap and trade compliance review framework.

Our intended participation includes

- Generally representing the interests of our farm business membership
- Providing an agricultural sector perspective to the framework
- Providing a rural perspective to the framework
- Ensuring cost recovery mechanisms are fair for farm business and rural natural gas consumers

Reimbursement of reasonable costs

The OFA requests for cost awards for its participation in this proceeding and believes that as a federation representing the direct interests of individual farmers, farm businesses, regional federations and commodity organizations, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure and the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

Representative

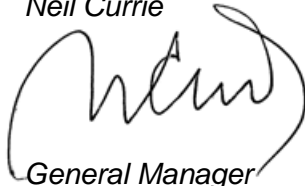
The OFA designates the below representative related to documentation and participation in the proceedings.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture
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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, March 14, 2016

Original signed by

Neil Currie



*General Manager
Ontario Federation of Agriculture*