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File: 9210

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April 21, 2016

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Late Intervenor Status and Cost Eligibility Request for Low-Income Energy Network
Board File No. EB-2015-0363 - Consultation to Develop a Regulatory Framework for Natural Gas Distributors' Cap and Trade Compliance Plans**

We are counsel for the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN). LIEN requests late intervenor status in the above-mentioned proceeding and seeks eligibility for a cost award.

LOW-INCOME ENERGY NETWORK

LIEN represents 60 member groups across Ontario. As a network representing the intersection of interests related to low-income consumers and energy and sustainability, LIEN's focus is on reducing the energy bills of all low-income consumers and providing low-income consumers the opportunity to better manage their energy bills. In so doing LIEN addresses customer care matters, commodity prices and rates, and DSM/CDM matters. LIEN helps to ensure that low-income consumers across Ontario have access to conservation programs, technologies and services as well as conservation education, and realize the environmental, energy and economic benefits associated with the more efficient use of energy.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

LIEN intends to intervene in this proceeding for the following reasons:

- ◆ Recent amendments to Bill 172 have resulted in a requirement to analyze impacts of cap and trade on low-income communities and actions to mitigate those impacts in the climate action plan.
- ◆ There may be further amendments to Bill 172 related to low-income communities.

- ◆ LIEN intends to intervene in this proceeding to ensure that
 - low-income measures can also be included under the Board framework as may be applicable, and
 - the interests of low-income natural gas consumers are represented in this consultation proceeding.

LIEN intends to participate in all aspects of the proceeding, including any further stakeholder meetings, working group sessions and written submissions.

REASONS FOR LATE FILING

LIEN only recently became aware of this proceeding and the implications it may have on low-income natural gas consumers, in light of the recent amendments to Bill 172.

LIEN apologizes for the late filing of this intervention and seeks the indulgence of the Board in this matter.

COSTS

LIEN requests that the Board find it eligible for costs under section 3.03 (a) of the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. LIEN "primarily represents the direct interests of residential consumers in relation to regulated services." LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in many other proceedings before the Board.

As a not-for-profit organization, LIEN's participation in this proceeding is dependent on any cost awards it receives. LIEN intends to coordinate its efforts with other stakeholders to avoid duplication where possible.

We request that counsel (Mr. Matt Gardner and Ms. Nicole Petersen), as well as Ms. Theresa McClenaghan (theresa@cela.ca) and Ms. Jacqueline Wilson (jacqueline@cela.ca) of CELA (members of LIEN's legal subcommittee) be listed on the intervenors' list under LIEN, since this makes the later distribution of updates more effective.

Mr. Gardner and Ms. Petersen are located at:

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt F. Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Gardner

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