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Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Ontario Energy Board:

My family and I do not agree that landlords should be allowed to smart meter apartment buildings at their own discretion. In the last few years landlords across the province have taken it upon themselves, without legislation to sub-meter and subcontract their buildings without permission or regulation. The result has been some tenants are being pressured by landlords into waiving their existing leases and rights under the Tenant Protection Act of Ontario. We don't believe this is the way to go.

**Why can't regular electricians install a smart sub-metering system?  
Why should a few companies control installations?**

**Retaining a licensed sub-metering provider to be retained to provide services associated with sub-metering including billing is a recipe for disaster. Whose interest is being served here?**

We believe it is irresponsible to allow the landlords to subcontract billing, maintenance and other services to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Firstly, tenants who currently pay their own hydro should have the right to chose to deal with a local utility company if they wish, not be chained to a middleman who will drive up the costs associated with hydro.. This route will only make the electricity costs to tenants more expensive. Sub-metering companies will add maintenance and repair charges to the tenant's monthly hydro bill. Maintenance and repair costs are not incurred by tenants now.

Secondly, why should these tenants be exempt from the same consumer choices and rights as homeowners in the Province?

**Is the Ontario Energy Board going to over throw existing leases in buildings where landlords have included hydro costs in the tenants rent?**

At present if you can't afford to maintain a house you can rent an apartment. Tenants still have a choice. If you can't afford to pay hydro you can look for a building where hydro is included in the rent. This has given many families some financial wiggle room.

Our economy is in a recession

Many Ontarians are out of a job or have been laid off. Will seniors and those on fixed incomes have to choose between keeping the lights on and eating? Will unemployed people in northern Ontario freeze because they can't pay their added 3<sup>rd</sup> party electric bill?

**IF LANDLORDS WERE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST OF HYDRO IN THEIR BUILDINGS THEY WOULD HAVE UPGRADING THE APPLIANCES AND FIXED LEAKY DOORS AND WINDOWS YEARS AGO.**

**Are tenants expected to be lumped with energy wasting appliances and foot the bill?**

The laws that effect electricity servicing, licensing, distribution and cost must be fair. Landlords should not be allowed to exploit their tenants because the Electricity Act has not been clear. Not allowing people to have a choice will only creates more problems.

We chose to rent in the building we live in because the hydro was included. Some tenants in Ontario have chosen buildings where they pay their own hydro. Existing building that presently includes hydro in the rent should be grandfathered. Allowing all tenants to have a choice in which model they can best afford.

Sincerely, Mr. Ron Anderson,  
4 Milepost Pl. Suite 412  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4H-1C8