



Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
26th Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

August 11, 2010

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Implementation of Consumer Protection (Retailer/Marketer) Provisions of the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010***  
**Board File Number EB-2010-0245**

**Housing Help Association Of Ontario (HHAO) - Intention to Participate and Request an Award of Costs**

I am writing, as per the Board's Letter of August 4, 2010, to indicate HHAO's intention to provide comments on the above issue and request an award of costs as per 3.03 (b) of the OEB Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

**Interests Represented**

The Housing Help Association of Ontario (HHAO) is a non profit association providing support and coordination to community based agencies across Ontario that provide housing help services. The development and delivery of energy assistance programs to lower income households is a core service within the housing help sector throughout the province in urban, sub-urban and rural contexts. Agencies that provide housing help services offer energy programs that assist those in core housing need (households paying more than 30% for shelter), to maintain their housing and avoid disconnection and eviction which has an added benefit of reducing administration costs to energy providers.

Our members have daily frontline experience of the impacts of energy retailers on low income residents as well as the analysis of the broader energy poverty issues, therefore our input at the



[www.findhousinghelp.ca](http://www.findhousinghelp.ca)

stakeholder meeting on August 20 2010 will be of benefit to our members, the thousands of low income people we serve yearly, the OEB and the energy suppliers and retailers involved. Our

representative to the stakeholder meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 is Mary Anne Rowlands. She is the HHAO Chair, the manager of a rural housing help centre in Eastern Ontario and was a cost eligible member of the OEB LEAP Financial Assistance working group in 2009.

### **Cost Eligibility**

Regarding #2 Eligible Activities in Appendix A of OEB letter dated August 4, 2010 Ms. Rowlands will require cost eligibility as she comes from a non-profit community-based agency with limited resources and a mandate to direct resources into direct program delivery. Similarly the HHAO is a new and growing non profit association with a provincial mandate that currently lacks funding to cover costs of travel and time to attend stakeholder meetings.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jane McKitterick  
Coordinator Housing Help Association of Ontario

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