

# HVAC Coalition Inc.

*Committed to a Fair Marketplace for our Customers*

March 26, 2013

Rosemarie T. Leclair, Chair  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Suite 2701  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Leclair,

**Re: EB-2012-0397 Encouraging Electricity Distributor Efficiency–Consultant’s Report**

We are writing to you on behalf of the HVAC Coalition Inc. to express our disappointment with the OEB’s lack of consultation with our organization (and others like it) on the above referenced matter. The HVAC Coalition has for more than 18 years represented the interests of the HVACR industry in proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board. Our members clearly have a significant interest in the discussions taking place around the scope of activities engaged in by regulated utilities and their affiliates.

We were first made aware of the existence of the report by Navigant Consulting Ltd., entitled *Electricity Distribution Efficiency, Summary of Consultation Process*, on February 27, 2013, the very day it was scheduled to be discussed with stakeholders by webinar. Obviously, this was too late to take to allow our organization to take part in this meeting, let alone the consultation process that led to the report.

In reviewing the report, it is clear that the consultation process was limited primarily to local electricity distribution companies and their representative association, plus a few ratepayer representatives. Given this too-narrow scope of consultation, we are not at all surprised by the general tone of the report, nor its conclusions with respect to potential regulatory change.

With respect, the purpose of these regulations, and especially the Affiliate Relationships Code, is to protect ratepayers but also to minimize inappropriate utility interference in existing competitive markets, such as those within which our members operate. Our members are therefore naturally interested in any discussion about redefining the “regulatory barriers to efficiency.”

It should be noted that at page 3 of the report (Figure 1) there is reference to gathering information from “other potentially affected parties (i.e. electrical contractors)”, but in the list of actual stakeholders consulted (Appendix A), no groups representing electrical contractors, nor other equally affected sectors (such as HVACR contractors), are mentioned. This is a serious gap which limits the validity of the report.

The HVAC Coalition submits that the OEB should broaden the scope of consultation on this important matter so that all affected stakeholders can have a voice. We would be pleased to participate as necessary to ensure that the HVACR industry and its customers are heard. Please advise on how we can become engaged in this process by contacting our manager, Mr. Martin Luymes, at 905-602-4700 ext. 235 or email [mluymes@hrai.ca](mailto:mluymes@hrai.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Grochmal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Grochmal  
Chair

cc HVAC Coalition Board of Directors  
Martin Luymes