

To the members of the Ontario Energy Board,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns with the proposed increase put forth by Enbridge. The increases proposed are unsettling for a number of reasons. Firstly, Canada is blessed with an overabundance of natural gas and consequently the ratepayer should share in this bounty. We understand that the transmission and distribution of natural gas is costly for most of the population lives within 300 miles of the U.S. border whereas most natural resources are spread throughout the west and north. However, how often must we the rate payers subsidize the cost of the pipelines, which is a capital expenditure for Enbridge? Why has this cost not been built into the distribution costs over a reasonable length of time or over the length of the age of the pipelines?

Secondly, Enbridge continues to increase the customer charge on a regular basis. In 2004, the customer charge was \$10.00. Today, it is \$20.00, which is a tremendous escalation over a brief period of time. The customer charge is a fixed charge for services including meter reading and pipeline maintenance. We must pay it whether or not we use the fuel! Therefore, in addition to the rate increase of distribution, are we to assume that the customer charge will also continue to increase per year as in the past? Will the distribution rate continue to increase on a yearly basis well after 2016? According to the Conference Board of Canada, we, as part of Canada's middle class, have not experienced a wage increase in real dollars since 1971 or 1972. We can not afford the increases we face in 2015 and 2016. Furthermore, we have yet to be told of the increases planned by Enbridge for the subsequent years.

Thirdly, our reality is that consumers must rely on the expertise that is available to Enbridge to ensure viable energy rates for all. As an integral member of the Canadian fabric, Enbridge does not exist in a vacuum and should exploit its assets, turning them over in a manner that should eliminate the need for any increases. In other words, Enbridge should take advantage of their fixed cost. The pipeline is available 24 hrs a day and its utility has to be exploited to the maximum. The Ontario Energy Board must investigate this reality at the highest level of scrutiny.

Furthermore, we in Canada cannot survive without a source of heat. Therefore Enbridge unfortunately is in the driver's seat when it comes to determining direction of the rate increase. However, as part of your accountability to us, you, the members of the Ontario Energy Board, must become more conscious of the impact the rate plan will have on the ordinary citizen, many of whom have not read, heard about or even understood the Ontario Energy Board Notice placed in the various media at the beginning of this month. It is your responsibility as members of **our** provincial board to ensure that your actions in this matter **represent what is best for the public consumers** and not Enbridge.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns that any and all increases as set out by Enbridge's 5-year rate plan are misguided.

Sincerely,

Anthony Mete and Dianna Kit Mete,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the names and contact information of the signatories.