

October 27, 2014

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2014-0227 – Stakeholder Forum – Electricity Bill Assistance Program**

On October 23, 2014, the Ontario Energy Board (“Board”) released a letter inviting stakeholders to a Stakeholder Forum regarding the design of a ratepayer-funded bill assistance program for low-income electricity consumers. On April 23, 2014, the Minister of Energy asked the Board to develop options for such a program.

The Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”) intends to participate in this consultation process. The Council is an organization which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The outcome of this process will have a direct impact on residential consumers. Specifically, the Council would like to attend the Stakeholder Forum scheduled for November 6, 2014, and provide written comments.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. The Council is of the view that it is eligible for a cost award as it primarily represents the direct interests of consumers in relation to the services that are regulated by the Board. On June 23, 2014, the Council filed with the Board, pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings and consultation processes. The undersigned intends to represent the Council in this review along with my colleague Ruth Greey.

For over a decade the Council has regularly participated in Board proceedings and consultation processes. In those processes the Board has determined the Council to be eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this consultation process.

Copies of all correspondence should be sent to me, at 62 Hillside Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4S 1T5. My telephone number is 416-322-7936 and my e-mail is [jgirvan@uniserve.com](mailto:jgirvan@uniserve.com). In addition, all correspondence should be sent to Ms. Ruth Greey, at [rgreey@gmail.com](mailto:rgreey@gmail.com).

Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

*Julie E. Girvan*

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CC: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada