

Sent via e-mail: [rosemarie.leclair@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:rosemarie.leclair@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

November 10, 2015

Ms. Rosemarie Leclair  
Chair and CEO  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Leclair:

On behalf of AMO we are writing to formally support proposed changes that are before the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) seeking approval for new approaches to expand access to natural gas.

AMO has supported the expansion of natural gas into more communities and rural areas across the province. However, the way this is financed is of interest to municipal governments. AMO asks that the OEB ensure that changes to the rules governing these expansions do not have the unintended consequence of hampering existing or new development by diverting supplies and that the costs to customers across the province would not increase due to expansions and those local financing models be transparent.

It is understood that various pilots are proposed using various funding ideas and at least one utility has approached the OEB to allow for some rule changes. Each municipal government will have a different interest and capacity to participate in expansion initiatives. Counting on the forfeiture of "payments in lieu" from utilities to municipal governments should not be the default position. Likewise, the utilities business model must be flexible enough to accommodate a longer and perhaps lesser profit for the utility. The utilities must be able to demonstrate that they too have invested in each project and are not capitalizing on new markets at the expense of local citizens' tax dollars.

We appreciate the complexity of these issues and look forward to the expansion of natural gas into more rural areas. The benefits are clear for those who are able to become customers. Should you wish further details, please feel free to contact Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, at 416-971-9856 ext. 342.

Yours sincerely,



Gary McNamara  
AMO President