



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

c/o County of Renfrew, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5

Pembroke, April 6, 2016

Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge St.  
PO Box 2319  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

**Re: Ontario Energy Board Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004**

Dear Ms. Walli,

Regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus would like to provide the following submission as a letter of comment.

As an organization representing the interests of municipal taxpayers in rural Eastern Ontario, the EOWC supports the initial application from Union Gas (EB-2015-0179) to expand natural gas service to rural and remote communities. Beyond that, however, the EOWC also supports any similar efforts from other entities, such as Enbridge Gas, that wish to provide natural gas services to rural and remote communities that do not currently have access to such services.

The expansion of the infrastructure required to provide natural gas to rural communities that would otherwise not receive this service would allow for significant economic benefits for every sector: residential, commercial and industrial. Natural gas is the most reliable, efficient, and economical form of energy, but due to the dispersed nature of our population – coupled with our geography and geology – many areas remain underserved or are simply not serviced at all.

As the economic development of our region is a priority issue, the expansion of the natural gas network is of great importance to everyone who lives and does business in rural Eastern Ontario. If certain conditions were put into place, such as those being considered by the Ontario Energy Board, it may become financially feasible to extend natural gas to the EOWC region.

The EOWC is an incorporated non-profit organization comprised of the elected Wardens of the 13 upper-tier and single-tier councils in rural Eastern Ontario, stretching from Northumberland to the Quebec border, with a combined population of 750,000. On behalf of the EOWC, I strongly encourage the Board to consider and approve any measures raised in the Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004 that may allow for the provision of natural gas in our region.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Emon', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Emon  
Chair, 2016, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus