

Randy Hillier, MPP

Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington

Kristen Walli
Board Secretary - Ontario Energy Board
PO Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

6 June 2016

Ref: #EB-2016-0004

Dear Ms. Walli;

I understand that at the request of the Minister of Energy, the Ontario Energy Board is reviewing the rules and guidelines that govern natural gas providers, specifically Enbridge Gas and Unions Gas, concerning system expansion. I support such a review, and encourage the Ontario Energy Board to carefully examine the matter with an eye towards improving access to safe, affordable natural gas in Ontario.

As I am sure you are aware, the Ontario government announced in their 2016 budget that they would, by the end of this year, make available interest-free loans to help more communities access natural gas. (<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2016/02/province-expanding-ontario-community-infrastructure-fund-connecting-links-program.html>)

This was a follow up to their April 2015 announcement of a similar vein wherein they underscored the importance of expanding affordable natural gas, where viable, to rural and remote communities. <https://news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2015/04/ontario-expanding-natural-gas-service-to-more-communities.html>

Rural and remote communities in Ontario primarily use electricity they purchase from Hydro One Networks Inc. for home heating and appliances. With Ontario's current energy policies driving up the cost of electricity, and making it practically unaffordable for many residents and businesses in our province, it is important that the market be allowed to offer competitive, alternative forms of energy in order to ease the financial burden on energy customers, and make Ontario a more affordable place to live, work, and play.

I appreciate your giving this matter the attention it deserves, and for considering my thoughts and views during your deliberations.

Sincerely,



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