



## Patrick Brown, MPP

Simcoe North  
Leader of the Official Opposition

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Ms. Kristen Walli  
Board Secretary, Ontario Energy Board  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

June 20, 2016

**RE: #EB-2016-0004**

Dear Ms. Walli,

It has been brought to my attention that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is reviewing submission #EB-2016-0004 from Enbridge Gas Distribution on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to review the mechanisms to recover the costs of natural gas expansion in Ontario.

Many rural and remote communities across Ontario rely on electricity purchased from Hydro One for home heating purposes, despite cheaper alternatives like natural gas being available in other parts of the province. Hydro One is home to some of the highest and fastest increasing electricity prices in North America.

In the 2015 Budget, the Ontario Government committed to \$200-million in interest-free loans to assist with natural gas expansion into communities not currently served. The 2016 Budget included a similar announcement in support of natural gas expansion. Unfortunately for the communities waiting on supports, the Government has yet to spend any of the allocated funds for natural gas expansion.

Within my constituency of Simcoe North, there is a great need for natural gas expansion as an affordable, cost-effective, and environmentally efficient fuel source. Specifically, Lagoon City within Ramara Township is slated for much-needed expansion.



Ontario  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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I encourage the OEB to look at ways to help facilitate natural gas expansion in Ontario, including regulatory flexibility, while still performing its primary function of protecting consumer interests.

Thank you very much for giving this issue much deserved consideration. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Brown'.

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cc. Hon. Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy  
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
David Donovan, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, Enbridge