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Thursday, June 9th, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
PO Box 2319
2300 Yonge St., 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Dear Ms. Walli,

I understand the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is currently reviewing a submission by Enbridge Gas Distribution to allow natural gas expansion within the Province of Ontario (#EB-2016-0004). Enbridge's submission requesting the changes necessary to facilitate 39 potential natural gas expansion projects in Ontario and make future projects feasible is one that I, as MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, strongly support.

In my riding, I have often heard from my constituents about the importance of having natural gas to heat their homes and businesses with. The increasingly high cost of electricity, coupled with the fact that natural gas is one of our most affordable, reliable and efficient forms of energy, make it the choice for more than 75 per cent of home owners in Ontario. Enbridge's expansion project will help to expand this choice to many more home and business owners across Ontario and significantly benefit our province's economy.

The expansion proposed by Enbridge will particularly benefit rural residents and communities like those in my riding by providing an economical choice to heat their homes and businesses. Such an expansion will reduce the cost-of-living for many rural residents who have been negatively impacted by rising electricity rates as well as provide a boost to local economies during both the construction of this new infrastructure, and after its completion. Indeed, multiple economic sectors stand to benefit greatly should Enbridge' submission be improved including the residential, commercial, agribusiness and industrial sectors.

For these reasons, I strongly support the application by Enbridge Gas Distribution to expand the natural gas network in Ontario.

Sincerely,



John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

cc.

David Donovan
Senior Advisor, Government Relations
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.