

August 30, 2016

Ontario Energy Board  
PO Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 1E4  
Attn: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

To Whom it May Concern:

Please consider this a letter of comment regarding application file #EB-2016-0061. In this application, Canadian Niagara Power Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase the amount it charges by \$4.56 each month for the typical household beginning on January 1, 2017. Other customers including businesses may be affected as well.

I object most strongly to the institution of such an increase. A survey in January, 2014 showed Ontario citizens being billed at the highest rate in the country. The most recent study, reported by Conservative leader Patrick Brown, shows Ontario electricity costs per kilowatt hour are now **the highest in North America.**

He notes that "this government's alarming compensation to Hydro One executives total 24 million dollars, with the new CEO being paid 4 million. This is a slap in the face to average Ontario families who can't afford to pay their hydro bills or make ends meet." In the Huffington Post, August 29, 2016, Kevin O'Leary has clearly researched and documented preposterous compensation packages being paid to executives supporting the Liberal government..

Ontario's alarming electricity costs affect not only households but public institutions such as schools, clinics, hospitals, police and fire stations, nursing homes, retirement homes and all other organizations vitally necessary to the survival of our citizens. It affects large and small businesses from factories to retail outlets, business that could easily migrate to Mexico and elsewhere where costs are lower. Jobs would disappear with them, and people would suffer even greater hardship. And of course people in their homes will soon be unable to pay their electricity bills and all the other unavoidable expenses of ordinary life.

On December 2, 2015, The Globe and Mail cited the recent report of the Auditor General of Ontario which charged that "Ontarians paid **\$37 billion above market for electricity over eight years.**" That is abusive and shameful! It affects every aspect of healthy living for all poor and middle class citizens in this province.

Cost of electricity in Ontario should be significantly lowered in Ontario, not increased, and I strongly urge you to deny this application.

Sincerely,

*Joan L. Bennett*