

From: Dumlavwalla [REDACTED]
Sent: February-01-17 11:02 PM
To: BoardSec
Cc: kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Subject: Letter of Comment Re : EB-2016-0296

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this today as the new provincial tax called "Cap & Trade" comes into effect. My January 2016 gas bill was \$108.90 and my January 2017 bill is \$145.08, which is 33% more than a year ago. My usage is almost the same (2.73% higher M3 this year). The new "Cap & Trade" tax is "only 3.3 cents per M3" but it amounts to an additional 28.52% cost of gas. On top of that, Union Gas has increased the price this January 2017 from 11.5706 cents to 16.0178 per M3 which is a 38.43% increase from last month or 48.30% increase from January 2016. To my understanding this was approved by the Ontario Energy Board. I just do not understand what this board thinks when they pass such huge increases to tax payers and particularly the fixed income people who have to rely on CPP and OAS. Ironically, the inflation rate for these pension plans does not go up more than 2%.

As you must know, all utility costs like hydro and water has gone up sharply, along with Natural Gas. These increases cause a lot of hardships. It looks like that for some reason, government costs keeps going up and the easy answer is to increase taxes. In private business, if costs keeps going up, they have to cut the budget expenses and make the business profitable. They might be able to get by through modest price increases, but if they try to increase the price by 30% they loose customers and ultimately they loose their jobs. Unfortunately, we as customers of our government do not have the choice. What cost cutting measures are they implementing? I think it is important for Canadian citizens to know.

Awaiting for your kind response.

*Sincerely,
Pesi Dumlavwalla*