

TODD SMITH

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attn: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
RE: EB-2017-0049

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

July 21, 2017

Dear Board Members at the OEB,

I am writing today on behalf of the [REDACTED] to urge you to reject Hydro One's application for a \$141 per year rate hike.

Our position on this application is already very well known, but I am writing regarding some new and concerning developments. Hydro One recently announced the purchase of Avista, a foreign utility company based in Washington for \$6.7 billion.

Hydro One has recently been travelling the province as a part of your public hearings crying poor – suggesting they need to gouge Ontario ratepayers another \$141 per year as the cost of fixing a backlog of repairs. But now, it seems almost magically, the company has found close to \$7 billion to throw at foreign companies.

Why should Ontario ratepayers be on the hook for yet another rate hike, when Hydro One has billions of dollars on hand? This is not fair.

The purchase of Avista is the direct result of Kathleen Wynne's fire sale. The Wynne Liberals promised the sale wouldn't impact ratepayers, yet now we're seeing the results. Hydro One is gouging ratepayers while using their money to buy up foreign companies.

We can't set the horrible precedent that Ontario ratepayers will be left on the hook for soaring rates, as billions of dollars are invested outside of the province.

The reality is Ontario families across the province are working harder, paying more, and getting less. The people of Ontario can't afford yet another rate hike, while consultants, lobbyists, and fat-cat executives get rich off the purchase of foreign companies.

Do the right thing and reject Hydro One's application for a rate hike.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Todd Smith

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]