

**From:** Mark McElwain

**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 12:47 PM

**To:** [ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

**Subject:** Concerned that change to seasonal rate program may worsen rates in rural Ontario

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was encouraged to register my concerns, initially sent to my MPP Bill Walker, to you. Please note my concern about the already-high rates faced in my community.



Mr Bill Walker, MPP Grey-Bruce  
Associate Minister of Energy

Dear Bill:

I am writing about the recent media reports of changes proposed by Hydro One, subject to approval by the Ontario Energy Board, which reportedly could shift costs towards residents of less-densely populated parts of the province.

Several members on a Facebook page from the Bruce Peninsula were quite concerned today about the prospect of higher rates.

I could support the effort to move away from the additional charges for 'seasonal use' which are arbitrary, and difficult to enforce. In my case, I have been unable to get the seasonal use premium removed even though our home off Dunks Bay Road has the power left on throughout the year, and Hydro One gets substantial usage from us, especially in winter!

But the media reports suggest that the distribution charges will in future penalize those living in medium and low-density parts of the province to a greater degree than is now the case. I would be surprised if this government were to support a revision to the burden of paying for Hydro distribution, shifting costs from the cities to the rural parts of the province.

But the residents of Bruce-Grey must be reassured that as Associate Minister of Energy you are wellplaced to understand the effect of the proposed changes, and be able to apply your efforts to ensure that Hydro One's costs – the good and those that in the past have spent ineffectively – are shared fairly throughout the province. I'd appreciate it if your staff could clarify how the proposed changes will be applied, and certainly voters here on the Bruce would be assured to hear your personal promise that property owners on the Bruce will not be adversely affected.

Sincerely

Mark McElwain

