

Ms. Christine Long
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
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December 6th, 2019

Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. – 2021 Dawn-Parkway Expansion Project

I am writing to you to urge the Ontario Energy Board to ensure a fully public oral hearing for the above noted project. This was the unanimous direction of a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Conserver Society of Hamilton & District Inc.

We understand that Enbridge is seeking a written hearing and a very rapid decision from the OEB. We believe this would not be in the public interest. The Enbridge proposal raises very significant issues that require a thorough review conducted with maximum openness and transparency. The public must be able to attend and view the hearings into this project.

Among the key issues we are concerned with and which require a full public airing is the certain contribution of new fossil fuel infrastructure to the rapidly worsening global climate emergency. The best science humanity can muster stresses that we must cut fossil fuel emissions at least in half by 2030 and end their accumulation in the global atmosphere before mid-century. Pipelines that assume an increase in fossil fuel consumption cannot be contemplated in our view. Instead we should be taking all possible steps to reduce the demand for such products as natural gas.

The proposed pipeline route in rural Hamilton is highly problematic, especially the construction process. This process would decimate a wide swath of some of Hamilton's most ecologically sensitive environments, including provincially significant wetlands, significant water recharge areas, large areas designated by the City of Hamilton as environmentally sensitive, and some lands purchased decades ago with public monies for the purpose of permanently preserving important wildlife habitat.

We also understand that Enbridge's proposal includes seeking approval of an integrated resource planning protocol that could be applied to future capital projects considered by the OEB. This is yet another reason for a full, transparent and oral hearing process.

The Conserver Society traces its history back half a century to the establishment in 1969 of Hamilton's first environmental organization – a group called CHOP (Clear Hamilton of Pollution). In 1984 this very active group was incorporated as Conserver Society and is a registered charity. The Conservers have helped initiate composting programs, bicycle paths, and education on and reduction of pesticide use. We have helped limit urban sprawl and destruction

of natural areas. We've participated in regional waste-management, air quality and transportation initiatives. The Conserver Society established and oversees an Environmental Trust, the Ed Smee Conserver Society Environmental Fund, which makes grants to assist local environmental initiatives. We were the initiator and continue to sponsor the annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards. Our experience with environmental projects and strong community roots lead us to believe we are extremely qualified to comment on this matter, and hope that you will take this request seriously.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don McLean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don McLean, Chair
on behalf of the Conservers Society of Hamilton & District