## MICHAEL R. BUONAGURO

**Barrister and Solicitor** 

May 13, 2020

Ms. Christine Long Registrar and Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 26<sup>th</sup> Floor 2300 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Dear Ms. Long,

## RE: EB-2020-0091-Enbridge Gas Integrated Resource Planning Proposal

We are writing on behalf of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers ("OGVG") in regard to the referenced Application.

The Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector is a major contributor to the Ontario economy, generating over \$820 million in farm gate receipts and accounting for approximately 10,000 jobs annually. OGVG, as an organization, represents over 200 greenhouse pepper, tomato and cucumber growers in the province. Given the nature of greenhouse production systems, OGVG members are heavily reliant on energy, particularly natural gas. Over one third of greenhouse production costs are energy-related and as such rate increases and pricing adjustments serve to threaten the global competitiveness of the sector.

The Ontario greenhouse sector is growing. In fact, in evidence filed by Union Gas Limited (now part of Enbridge Gas) in its 2013 rate case, the greenhouse sector was shown to be the fastest growing sector of Union's business markets exhibiting a doubling of volume between the 2007 Board-approved and the 2013 Forecast volumes. OGVG members' natural gas consumption is important to Enbridge Gas and greenhouse production in general is important to the Ontario economy.

With respect to this particular application, OGVG's members have a direct and material interest in Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resource Planning Proposal. One of OGVG's primary concerns when participating in regulatory proceedings at the Ontario Energy Board is that its members continue to have access to natural gas service as its membership grows and existing members expand their operations. Accordingly OGVG's members will directly benefit or be directly harmed from Enbridge Gas' efforts at

integrated resource planning depending on how effective or flawed those efforts are. Further, OGVG expects that its members may be desirable targets for Enbridge Gas' IRP alternatives, particularly to the extent that Enbridge seeks to offset growing natural gas demand and the need for distribution and transmission infrastructure spending through demand response and enhanced targeted energy efficiency measures as suggested in the Notice of Application.

As a not-for-profit organization, OGVG does not have other funding sources to ensure experienced representation to participate in and assist the Board with these regulatory proceedings. Therefore OGVG would respectfully request a determination of eligibility for cost award in this consultation. OGVG retains professionals who have experience representing intervenor interests and, OGVG respectfully submits, have assisted the Board in previous proceedings in an efficient and responsible manner.

## **REPRESENTATION**

If the intervention requested is granted, OGVG asks that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

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AND

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If any further information is required please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours very truly,

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Michael R. Buonaguro