

Ms. Christine Long
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

February 17, 2021

Re: Sector Evolution Consultations: Utility Remuneration (EB-2018-0287) and Responding to Distributed Energy Resources (EB-2018-0288)

Dear Ms. Long:

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) has been following the proceedings on Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and would like to comment on the February 3, 2021 stakeholder meeting. Our comments are based on the stakeholder meeting and we broadly support the submissions from Environmental Defence and Pollution Probe on this topic.

TAF supports DERs as we believe they are vital to addressing municipal and provincial climate targets. DERs have the potential to transform our energy system and we strongly urge the OEB to reject the LEI recommendation on slowing down an already glacial process on this topic and to speed up work on DERs. We echo the sentiment from Pollution Probe that, “even with a comprehensive and efficient workplan, the finish line is still years away”. Moreover, as Environmental Defence notes this process must be expedited ‘to ensure we can proactively address the electricity capacity deficits forecast to begin in 2025 and the carbon price increases up to \$170/tonne in 2030”.

TAF also supports the call for a report on the value of DERs and valuation methodologies as noted by Environmental Defence in their submission. Such a report is important to provide a common position for utilities across Ontario to work from and to begin to make plans for DERs that work in their local contexts. There is considerable work to be done on this file and we highly recommend that the OEB continue to provide a forum for organizations working in this space to collaborate and to provide feedback.

Please refer to Environmental Defence’s and Pollution Probe’s Letter of Comment on the board staff proposals for a detailed rationale for the inclusion of these issues.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing TAF's comments.

Sincerely yours,



Bryan Purcell
VP Policy & Programs, The Atmospheric Fund

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and helps scale them up for broad implementation. Please note that the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent those of the City of Toronto or other GTHA stakeholders. We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies and running programs. We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits in addition to carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society.