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February 23, 2021

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto M4P 1E4

**Elimination of Hydro One Seasonal Rate Class
O.E.B. Reference EB-2020-0246**

We are writing in connection with your proposal, reference as above, to change the structure of billing for electrical power users in rural Ontario. This is as advised to us by letter from Hydro One dated February 9, 2021.

We are owners of a seasonal property on Manitoulin Island. Our average monthly usage is in the order of 30 kWh, and we are advised by Hydro One that we would be in the T2 Low Density Class, with the result that our total bill would increase approximately 100%.

We have serious concerns about this situation, as follows:

1. No blanket increase of this magnitude should be unilaterally imposed by a government body without due consideration of the individual users' circumstances, and also of the community as a whole, seasonal or not.
2. It would appear that low use seasonal users would be subsidising higher seasonal use owners as well as year round residents. This is not equitable.
3. We can understand that transmission and maintenance costs are expensive, but the object must be to apportion the cost fairly and reasonably among all users, taking individual circumstances into account. As an example, the pole transformer for our property is shared with our neighbour, who is a year round resident. There should therefore be no penalty placed on us for use of a power feed which would be in existence anyway, regardless of our presence.
4. As another example: we understand that the T2 Class is defined as an area with less than 15 seasonal users. Our neighbourhood has more than 15 mixed seasonal and year round residents, to my knowledge all coming from the same feeder. Similarly to (3) above, we and any other seasonal users should not be subsidising the whole neighbourhood with an assigned T2 classification.
5. It would appear that you intend to penalise residents for using less power. Is this the direction that you believe we as a province should be heading ? We think not.
6. The cost increases you are proposing for seasonal users are a significant deterrent to the appeal and hence the future of cottage life in developing rural areas such as Manitoulin. The consequence of this is a reduction in employment, health, and quality

of life in Ontario. The public needs confirmation that your proposals take into account comments from the relevant local authorities, including regional planning, environmental, and tourism interests.

Would you please respond to this letter, and also ensure that our concerns are raised at your public hearing.



Robert Kirk



Kathleen Kirk

cc. Hydro One Networks Inc., Toronto
Mike Mantha MPP Algoma/Manitoulin
Ruth Frawley, Municipality of Central Manitoulin