



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

April 14, 2021

Re: EB-2021-0118 Nomination – Framework for Energy Innovation Working Group

Submitted electronically and via email to registrar@oeb.ca

Dear Ms. Long:

Please accept this letter as a self-nomination for the Framework for Energy Innovation Working Group, on behalf of the Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA).

We would firstly like to take this opportunity to applaud the OEB for the re-launch of this critically important and timely consultation. As Ontario's rapidly approaching resource adequacy and capacity needs come into focus, it is vital that we undertake a fulsome discussion of the integral role that DERs can play in delivering a more flexible, reliable and decarbonized energy system at lowest cost to ratepayers.

As the national voice for the wind energy, solar energy and energy storage industries across Canada, CanREA proudly represents 270 member companies and organizations across Canada, with over 150 diverse member companies active in the Ontario electricity sector. These members include leading developers and asset managers of distributed wind, solar and energy storage solutions. It is the perspective and expertise of these members, many of whom have extensive experience from other markets in North America and worldwide, that we would bring forward to this new engagement and to the development of a new regulatory framework for DER usage and integration.

CanREA (operating at the time as the Canadian Solar Industries Association, CanSIA) has been an active and dedicated participant in the Utility Remuneration and Responding to DERs engagements since the launch of these consultation processes. Our independently commissioned discussion paper on Non-Wires Alternatives¹ was an important contribution to the discussion, and was cited in other stakeholders' written comments following the February 2021 meeting². We have also been highly engaged in the DER Connections Review process since its launch, serving on the Process sub-group and coordinating closely with our members active on the Technical sub-group.

¹ *Non-Wires Alternatives: Energizing Distributed Energy Resources to Bring Value to Canadian Grids, Utilities and Ratepayers – Discussion Paper (March 2020)*. Available from: <https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/673241/File/document>

² See written comments of the Advanced Energy Management Alliance submitted following February 19 2021 stakeholder meeting, Utility remuneration EB-2018-0287

I have served in my current role as Director of DERs at CanREA since our Association was established in July 2020 from the merger of CanSIA and the Canadian Wind Energy Association. Prior to the CanREA merger I served as Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs at CanSIA, and I was previously Senior Policy Analyst at Solar Energy UK, the UK's national trade association for the solar industry. In this role I represented the solar and energy storage industries in a number of regulatory engagements highly relevant to the FEI consultation, notably including the Ofgem 2023 Electricity Distribution Network Price Control Framework³, the performance-based regulation framework for Great Britain's electricity distribution network operators. This consultation included extensive discussion regarding procurement of flexibility and the extent to which regulated utilities should undertake activities that can be delivered by competitive markets.

As the sole trade association representing distributed wind and solar generation and behind-the-meter energy storage in Ontario, CanREA is the voice of an absolutely integral constituency in this consultation and I hope you give favourable consideration to this nomination. We look forward to further constructive discussion with the OEB and other stakeholders on the crucial role of DERs in enabling Ontario's future low-carbon energy system.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Gall

Director, Distributed Energy Resources
Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA)
ngall@renewablesassociation.ca

³ Ofgem 2023 price control review (RIIO-ED2) - <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/regulating-energy-networks/2023-price-control-review-riio-ed2>