

# MICHAEL R. BUONAGURO

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July 29, 2021

Ms. Kirsten Walli  
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. Walli,

**RE: EB-2021-0147 Enbridge Gas Inc. Application for natural gas rate increases effective January 1, 2022**

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

OGVG represents approximately 220 greenhouse operators responsible for over 3,300 acres of greenhouse tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers across the province. The sector is a valuable economic driver, both directly and indirectly, when considering aspects of regional economics, provincial GDP, and job creation. With farmgate sales exceeding \$1 billion in 2019 and 2020, the sector is poised for continued growth and opportunity. Our members strive to grow fresh, high-quality food year-round contributing to healthy eating and food security goals. Greenhouse vegetable growers are always innovators and early adopters, leading the agricultural sector in combating climate change by way of clean technology implementation and energy efficient processes.

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 can impact the global competitiveness of the sector.

The Ontario greenhouse sector is growing. In fact, in evidence filed by Union Gas Limited 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 Inc. and greenhouse production in general is important to the Ontario economy.

With respect to this application, OGVG's members will be affected by the requested relief and continue to have an interest in the proper administration and calculation of the proposed natural gas related rates in accordance with the Board approved rate setting framework, particularly within the Union Gas rate zones, as well as a direct interest in other relief requested by Enbridge Gas Inc.

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:

Aaron Coristine  
Science/Regulatory Affairs/Government Relations  
Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
32 Seneca Road, Leamington, Ontario  
N8H 5H7

Phone 519-564-4496

Email: [a.coristine@ogvg.com](mailto:a.coristine@ogvg.com)

AND

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

Yours very truly,



Michael R. Buonaguro