

# Elson Advocacy

March 9, 2022

## **BY EMAIL AND RESS**

**Ms. Nancy Marconi**

Acting Registrar

Ontario Energy Board

2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 2319

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi

**Re: EB-2020-0293 – Enbridge Gas Inc. – St. Laurent Ottawa Replacement Project**

I am writing to at the invitation of Board Staff to respond to the letter from Ottawa Wind Concerns (“OWC”) dated March 7, 2022.

### **Response to OWC Letter**

OWC alleges that certain comments made in the technical conference in this proceeding were slander. The OWC’s letter includes a “demand that these comments be struck from the record.” The allegation of slander and the demand to strike portions of the record are difficult to respond to as the specific comments have not been cited. In particular, it is not clear whether OWC is referring to any comments that I made. In any event, the transcript does not reflect any slanderous comments.

The situation arises because Energy Probe sought to have a document entered as an exhibit containing 23 pages of blog posts on the website of OWC. The posts are anonymous in that they do not indicate who authored them. The first post (see pages 1-3) reiterates conclusions of a report by the so-called International Climate Science Coalition (“ICSC”). The post treats the report as if it is from a credible organization, describing it as a “not-for-profit coalition of scientists, economists and energy and policy experts.”

A number of parties objected to this being marked as an exhibit. I also objected, on the following basis:

The first article that Mr. Ladanyi has -- is intending to submit reiterates a report from the International Climate Science Coalition, and I would then want to ask follow up questions to confirm that that is indeed a climate denying organization.

So this is potentially a bit of a rabbit hole we're going down here, and I would prefer if it not be marked. Otherwise, we will be, I think, waylaid for a document

which we don't need to have in this record at all because no questions are going to be asked about it.<sup>1</sup>

I also noted, later in the transcript, a concern that the “document was reciting conclusions from a climate-denying organization, and having that information on the OEB’s website can be used to spread further disinformation and provide credibility to a climate-denying organization.”<sup>2</sup> I later asked for an undertaking that would confirm that ICSC denies the reality of human-caused climate change.<sup>3</sup>

OWC states that it was “named in association with another organization with whom we have no connection.” None of my comments name Ottawa Wind Concerns. In addition, none of my comments drew any inaccurate connections between organizations. I noted that the materials that Energy Probe put forward reiterate conclusions from the ICSC. That is true, and therefore not slander.

OWC states that it was branded as a climate change denier organization. None of my comments branded OWC a climate change denier organization. I clearly referenced the ICSC throughout and my statements about ICSC were accurate. The “core principles” listed on its website include, for example, that “science and observation have failed to substantiate the human-caused climate change hypothesis,” “[r]esearch that identifies the Sun as a major driver of global climate change must be taken more seriously,” and that “[s]cience is rapidly evolving away from the view that humanity’s emissions of carbon dioxide and other ‘greenhouse gases’ are a cause of dangerous climate change.”<sup>4</sup>

The issues surrounding Energy Probe’s materials appear to be a distraction from the core issues in this case. I provide this letter as I was invited to do so by Board Staff, but I do not want to give the issue undue attention. Our final submissions will be addressing different matters entirely.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kent Elson', written in a cursive style.

Kent Elson

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<sup>1</sup> Transcript March 7, 2022, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Transcript March 7, 2022, p. 30.

<sup>3</sup> Transcript March 7, 2022, p. 45.

<sup>4</sup> International Climate Science Coalition, *Core Principles*, <https://www.icsc-climate.com/core-principles>.