



March 18, 2023

To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>

Subject: Letter of Comment for Case Number EB-2022-0156

I am commenting on the above file on behalf of the Kawartha Park Cottagers' Association, an 80+ member driven organization, focused on the sustainability of lake life on the Kawartha Shore of Stony Lake in Selwyn Township where the proposed pipeline is to be constructed.

We strongly recommend that the OEB reject this application and others like it, for the more sustainable, less expensive options that currently exist in 2023 for rural properties. So much has changed since the Expansion of Natural Gas Act was passed in 2018 and Selwyn Township sent a Resolution (March, 2020) to participate in Phase two of Ontario's Natural Gas Expansion plan. Please consider:

- Many of our members suffered considerable damage from the Derecho storm last May, a storm that was caused by our warming climate. It is frustrating that our province and municipalities are continuing to advance harmful energy technologies using our tax dollars.
- Today, this energy project appears short-sighted and backwards thinking. One that will contribute to the growth of climate change for decades to come at time when Canada and 150 other countries have pledged to reduce their use of natural gas by 40 - 45% by 2030.
- Provincially, Enbridge is proposing an expansion to its gas network that will require collecting more than \$16 billion from customers over the coming years to pay for the new pipes, as well as operating and maintenance costs. If approved, the plan includes replacing existing pipes and installing new ones to 43 rural communities and 8,750 connections across the province at a cost of \$27,000 per customer.
- The increased costs of gas that Enbridge wants and probable consequent accelerated decline in demand for gas hook-ups make a very strong case for the OEB not supporting Enbridge's \$16 billion expansion.

Today there are other heating options; ones less harmful to the atmosphere and more economical. All levels of government should assist residents in this transition. Our options shouldn't be limited by policies that only support one path forward. So many others now exist to fit a variety of individual situations. A number of our members have recently moved from natural gas and propane to solar and ground source or cold climate heat pumps.

We need leadership that is forward thinking. You have the authority, and we believe the responsibility, to reject this application, if municipalities and Canada are to achieve their targets of reduced GHG emissions by 2030 in the most cost effective way. Your decision could help our members, and others, move forward to the future we all want.

Please note that I would like to receive notification of updates on this application.

Sincerely,

Shannon Sinclair, President

Kawartha Park Cottagers Association <KPCA302wildapricot.org>

647 330-7873