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file 5

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Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge St., 27th Fl
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

RECEIVED

JUL 12 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

RE: #EB-2016-0004 – Review of Mechanisms to Recover the Cost of Natural Gas Expansion in Ontario

Dear Ms. Walli,

I am writing you today to voice my support for expanding access to natural gas to communities in my riding of Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound.

As you may be aware, our local communities recognize the value of the expansion of Ontario's natural gas infrastructure as such a plan supports our economic development, job creation, and a more affordable energy source for rural Ontario.

I understand Enbridge Gas Distribution made a submission under EB-2016-0004 that includes 39 potential expansion projects in Ontario, and a request for the changes deemed necessary to make future projects feasible. In order to expand natural gas service to unserved communities, Enbridge has proposed specific forms of regulatory flexibility and/or exemptions from current OEB guidelines, including:

- An ongoing volumetric surcharge to collect capital contributions from new customers over an extended period of time;
- An incremental tax equivalent mechanism such that municipalities are able to contribute toward the economic feasibility of a community expansion project; and
- A reduction in the economic feasibility threshold that a project must meet before Enbridge is able to proceed with the expansion.



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Furthermore, natural gas can play an important role in the province's climate change agenda, as it can provide between 20 and 25 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for homes heated with propane or oil. This is in addition to both Enbridge Gas and Union Gas working towards a renewable content to their supply, which will further reduce emissions in a cost-effective manner.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my letter of support and I look forward to receiving a copy of the positive outcome at the OEB.

Sincerely,

Bill Walker, MPP
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound