November 9, 2023

Ontario Energy Board

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 RE: Panhandle Regional Expansion Project, Enbridge Gas Inc. EB-2022-0157

On behalf of Invest WindsorEssex and in light of current critical and time-sensitive Foreign Direct Investment that hinges on the approval of the proposed Panhandle Regional Expansion Project, with Enbridge Gas Inc., I feel compelled to provide this additional information in support of the application. (please refer to details on page 2).

As the leading economic development agency in Windsor and Essex County responsible for advancing economic development in the region, we know that an important part of this practice is ensuring that key infrastructure enhancements are in place to meet the ongoing needs of longstanding businesses in key industry sectors, and new and future investments. The Panhandle Expansion Project is critical to guaranteeing increased access to reliable and sustainable energy for all current and future business in our region and supporting the prosperity of our local economy.

This key energy infrastructure expansion will ensure that we meet the needs of our growing key sector industries and their emergence into new and innovative economies with a reliable and sustainable natural gas supply. This project is essential to our region and the strategic 401 corridor as we continue to work towards developing a solid base for local and global investment.

The Windsor-Essex region is experiencing significant investment and transformative innovation that will drive the economic prosperity of the region and the Province for at least a generation.

The following announcements are just a sampling of the large infrastructure projects that have been made public:

* The Stellantis-LG Energy Solutions joint venture, battery plant investment in Windsor of over $5B, with the prospect of approx. 2,500 jobs
* Stellantis investment of $3.6B in its Windsor and Brampton facilities with the added return of 3-shift operations; The Windsor portion includes a re-tooling of the Windsor Assembly Plant, and a transformation to support production of a new multi-energy vehicle (MEV) architecture that will provide battery-electric (BEV) capability for multiple models, and, the expansion of its Automotive Research and Development Centre (ARDC) will see it become the first battery lab in North America, The Battery Lab will be a state-of-the-art technology centre for the development and validation of advanced BEV, PHEV and HEV cells, modules and battery packs. The new 100,000-square-foot facility will be added to the existing building with completion expected by the end of 2023.



* Amazon has committed to building a 200,00 square feet Fulfillment Centre in Windsor and expected to employ approximately 300 people. Construction on the project is scheduled to get underway in May.
* There are four (4) battery plant supply chain companies currently under construction in our region. Total square footage is approximately one (1) million square feet with an estimated 1,050 jobs.

The Capital Investment value of our current pipeline of Foreign Investment, High Priority Leads **exceeds $8 billion.** The following chart illustrates the natural gas requirements for two (2) of these international companies. **More importantly, as indicated in the first paragraph of this letter, these companies are currently waiting for confirmation of natural gas supply and costing!**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year |   | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| Gas (m3) | Prospect 1 | CapEx $2.2 B | 1814044 | 3957914 | 5112305 | 7915827 | 7915827 |
| Prospect 2 | CapEx $3.5 B | 2611200 | 3461760 | 4327200 | 4327200 | 4327200 |
| WCP | TBD |
| **Total** |   | **4425244** | **7419674** | **9439505** | **1.2E+07** | **1.2E+07** |

Our local agri-food businesses have also seen a tremendous uptake in their products in the past year. A homegrown food chain is important to our province’s food supply chain and much of the energy innovation taking place within our expanding greenhouse industry depends on reliable natural gas. Our industry associations and their key sector stakeholders have been very clear and demonstrative about their critical need for the construction of important energy infrastructure that will allow timely customer connections, attract economic investment, and address system capacity issues, to meet their local expansion investments. Our region is an economic hub and plays a strategic role in Ontario’s supply chain and economic recovery from this global pandemic. Any delay in the enhancement of critical energy enhancements such as the Panhandle Expansion Project, places our region at risk of losing significant investment to competing jurisdictions outside of Ontario and Canada while still investing in driving the economy of the future.

At Invest Windsor Essex we want to attract and retain the best businesses and talent from across the continent and globe. Our goal is to ensure our region remains competitive for both local and foreign investment, and that is why reliable and sustainable infrastructure is essential to accomplishing this.

Advancing infrastructure that will benefit our businesses and communities and leverage the significant level of municipal, provincial and federal investment is of vital importance. We must work closely together to make sure that infrastructure can keep up with the needs of business and our region.

On behalf of Invest WindsorEssex, I urge the Ontario Energy Board to approve EB-2022-0157.

If you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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