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March 20, 2024

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Registrar

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Low Income Energy Network (LIEN)
Intervention and Cost Eligibility Request
Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing
Development
OEB File No. EB-2024-0092**

Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP is counsel for the Low-Income Energy Network (“LIEN”). LIEN requests eligibility to intervene in Ontario Energy Board’s policy review of Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development pursuant to the Minister’s request of November 2023. LIEN also seeks eligibility for a cost award.

LOW-INCOME ENERGY NETWORK

LIEN represents approximately 70 member groups across Ontario. As a network representing the intersection of interests related to low-income consumers and energy and sustainability, LIEN’s focus is on reducing the energy bills of all low-income consumers and providing low-income consumers the opportunity to better manage their energy bills. In so doing LIEN addresses customer care matters, commodity prices and rates, and DSM/CDM matters. LIEN helps to ensure that low-income consumers across Ontario have access to conservation programs, technologies and services as well as conservation education, and realize the environmental, energy and economic benefits associated with the more efficient use of energy.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

LIEN intends to intervene in this proceeding because low-income consumers will be affected by this proceeding. In LIEN’s view, it is important that the OEB have low-income consumers’ inputs heard as part of this consultation proceeding, particularly to ensure that low-income consumers are considered as part of “ensuring the balance between growth and ratepayer costs”.

LIEN provides a voice to low-income consumers and will ensure that this group continues to be represented in proceedings before the OEB. LIEN plays a crucial role in acting in the public interest and adding value to proceedings.

LIEN intends to participate in all aspects of this proceeding, including attending the stakeholder meeting on April 3, 2024 and submitting written comments.

COSTS

LIEN requests that the OEB find it eligible for costs under section 3.03 (a) of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. LIEN "primarily represents the direct interests of consumers (e.g. ratepayers) in relation to services that are regulated by the Board". LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in many other proceedings before the OEB.

As a not-for-profit organization, LIEN's participation in this proceeding is dependent on any cost awards it receives. LIEN intends to coordinate its efforts with other stakeholders to avoid duplication where possible. LIEN has retained Judy Simon & Associates Inc. to provide consulting advice to LIEN in this proceeding. Judy Simon is an expert on energy policy and conservation in Ontario and has been retained for expert advice in many proceedings by LIEN, and other clients, related to these issues.

We request that counsel (Mr. Matt Gardner) and Ms. Judy Simon be included on the email distribution list for this proceeding.

Contact information for Ms. Simon:

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Yours truly,



Matt Gardner
Partner
*Certified as a Specialist in Environmental Law
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cc: LIEN Legal Subcommittee
Judy Simon

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