**Nancy Marconi**

Registrar

Ontario Energy Board

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

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

registrar@oeb.ca

Dear Ms. Marconi:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. – Bobcaygeon Gas Project**

 **Ontario Energy Board File Number EB-2022-0111**

We am writing on behalf of the Kawartha chapter of the Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN) to provide comments on the application by Enbridge Gas to bring gas to parts of the Bobcaygeon area and the review motion by Environmental Defence asking for permission to file evidence in this proceeding. Our chapter consists of seniors in and around the Bobcaygeon area who are advocating for decisive action on climate change.

We ask that the Ontario Energy Board grant Environmental Defence’s motion to provide evidence. We have been communicating with Environmental Defence and relying on them in this case to make arguments in favour of lowering greenhouse gas emissions and energy bills. It is very important to us that Environmental Defence be allowed to introduce their proposed evidence in this proceeding. We adopt and reiterate the reasons they have provided as to why that evidence is important.

In addition, if time were made in the schedule for evidence, we hope to be able to provide the Energy Board with a letter outlining recent efforts we have made to have discussions and provide information to local residents along the pipeline route about the downsides of switching to gas and the benefits of switching to heat pumps. We believe that information would be of interest to the Ontario Energy Board in assessing how many of our neighbours might actually connect to the new pipeline and whether those individuals are starting to question what they have been told by Enbridge about the supposed benefits of gas versus electric heating.

But even if the evidence is not allowed, we nevertheless ask that the Ontario Energy Board either deny approval or at least put the project on hold. We believe few people will connect to the pipeline, and those that do will not stay for 40 years. We are also concerned that those who do connect will be making that decision based on misleading or incomplete information **– *a decision that could cost them considerable money*.** One of our members has a heat pump that saves almost 50% on heating costs. Another member is saving 30% after switching from a fossil gas furnace to a cold climate heat pump. None of us want to see seniors or any other local residents investing money in changing their heating systems based on misinformation. It is important that these be fully informed decisions.

If fewer people connect to the pipeline, or if they leave the pipeline sooner than expected, they will pay less towards the gas system. We understand that this will mean that this fossil fuel pipeline will receive an even greater subsidy from existing gas customers beyond the $68 million intended by the province. This is a slap in the face to the seniors in our community and across the province that will pay for part of this fossil fuel pipeline through their gas bills, and to our children and grandchildren who will suffer the consequences of more fossil fuel subsidies, more greenhouse gas emissions, and more climate catastrophes.

Yours truly,

Moya Beall

Ginny Colling

George Hewison

Sherry Hillman

David Rapaport

William Steffler‘