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Re: Securing access to natural gas for Ontario's future

On behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), I am submitting a letter of comment on Enbridge Gas Inc.'s Rate Rebasing Application Phase 2 (EB-2024-0111).

NOMA applauds the work the Government of Ontario has done to continue to advance access to affordable energy and propel economic growth, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act.

NOMA supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition; one that leverages existing natural gas infrastructure and invests in lower-carbon alternatives such as natural gas and hydrogen – in addition to building incremental electricity supply.

An integrated approach to Ontario's energy transition, where pipes and wires work together, will ensure Ontario maintains an energy system that is resilient and cost-effective while supporting the province's decarbonization efforts.

NOMA recognizes that growing communities and new developments have growing energy needs, to support housing developments, new businesses, community centers, hospitals, schools, grain dryers and industrial parks – and all Ontarians benefit from this growth.

Municipalities are planning for immense future growth and need assurance that affordable and reliable energy will be available to support economic and community development.

Natural gas meets 40 percent of Ontario's current energy needs and supports the reliability of Ontario's electricity system. We would like to ensure that hearings like this represent municipal voices and priorities. In the North, natural gas and natural gas infrastructure are necessary to support the province's diversified energy mix until a full transition to net-zero is possible.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

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Wendy Landry, President, NOMA  
Mayor, Municipality of Shuniah

Cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy  
President of AMO, Colin Best  
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