

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
235 Pinnacle Street, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 3A9
info@eowc.org

June 11, 2024

To: OEB registrar

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

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

The EOWC 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.

The EOWC supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition; one that leverages existing natural gas infrastructure and invests in lower-carbon alternatives such as renewable 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 while supporting the province's decarbonization efforts.

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

Municipalities are planning for immense future growth and need assurance that reliable natural gas will be available to support economic and community development – this energy certainty is crucial, as is preserving customer choice.

Natural gas meets 40 percent of Ontario's energy needs, plays a critical role in Ontario's energy evolution, and supports the reliability of Ontario's electricity system. We would like to ensure that hearings like this represent municipal

voices and priorities like our own on the need for natural gas and natural gas infrastructure to support the province's diversified energy mix.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Emon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Emon
Chair, 2023
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Info@eowc.org

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Hon. Stephen Lecce, the Minister of Energy
MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

Colin Best, President, AMO
amo@amo.on.ca

municipalaffairs@enbridge.com

Meredith Staveley-Watson, Manager of Government Relations, EOWC
meredith.staveley-watson@eowc.org