

In The Regional Municipality of Darham

Town Hall 51 Toronto &treet &outh P.O. Box 190 Uxbridge, ON L9D 1T1 Telephone (905) 852-9181 Facsinile (905) 852-9674 Web www.town.uxbridge.on.ca

September 10, 2024

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

To the Ontario Energy Board,

The municipality of the Township of Uxbridge understands that there is currently a stay request from intervenors related to the Sandford Community Expansion project. I am writing to express our strong opposition to any further delays and to urge the Ontario Energy Board to take all necessary actions to ensure that the natural gas construction for this project moves forward without interruption.

Our residents have been waiting for years for access to reliable and affordable natural gas service. Now that construction has finally begun, it is absolutely essential that this project continues without further delays. The people of Sandford and other rural areas have been relying on expensive and less reliable propane for too long, and they need the more cost-effective and dependable energy that natural gas can provide. Not only would it be extremely disappointing to the community if natural gas is not available for this coming heating season, but it would cause additional hardships to residents and businesses who have been waiting for this more economical energy source.

Additionally, as more residents transition to heat pumps, it is critical that natural gas is available as a backup fuel source during extreme cold weather, when heat pumps are less effective. This is not only a matter of comfort but of safety for our rural communities. We need to ensure that residents have reliable heating options during the harshest months, and any delays in the construction process put that reliability at risk.

The people of Uxbridge cannot afford to wait any longer. I strongly urge the Ontario Energy Board to prioritize the timely completion of this project and to reject any further delays. This is an urgent matter for our community, and we expect swift and meaningful action.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dave Barton Township of Uxbridge