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Mike Schreiner, MPP  
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March 13, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Marconi,

Re: Application to impose a franchise agreement on the City of Guelph EB-2025-0058

I am writing in support of the City of Guelph to request that the Ontario Energy Board decline to impose a franchise agreement on the City and ensure that there is robust public participation in the upcoming hearing on this issue.

As you know, the City of Guelph does not wish to enter into a 20-year franchise agreement with Enbridge Gas on the terms that Enbridge Gas proposes. The proposed agreement is concerning to the municipality because it would require the municipality to provide use of its public lands for Enbridge Gas pipelines without any fees for the term of the agreement. This agreement would harm the municipality if Bill 219 is passed, which would allow fees to be charged by municipalities for use of their public lands for gas pipelines.

I am a co-sponsor of Bill 219. The bill would have made amendments to allow municipalities to charge gas pipeline companies for the use of public lands. Although Bill 219 died when the recent Ontario election was called, I intend to re-introduce it when the legislature resumes sitting. If the re-introduced bill is passed and the proposed franchise agreement has been imposed on Guelph, the municipality would not be able to exercise its rights to charge fair fees for the use of its land.

This issue is important to me as the Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Guelph. The elected municipal government should not be overruled by the Ontario Energy Board on this issue. Nor should taxpayers be made to agree to provide free access to their public lands when the municipality has decided that this is not in the public interest.

This is also an important environmental issue. As a province, we cannot hope to effectively combat climate change while subsidizing fossil fuels. A requirement to provide access to public lands without any fees is exactly the kind of fossil fuel subsidy that needs to be eliminated. It is illogical that municipalities can charge zero-emitting district energy providers to put pipes under roads but cannot change these fees for fossil fuel pipelines. Bill 219 would change that, whereas the agreement that Enbridge Gas is trying to impose on the municipality would lock in this fossil fuel subsidy for the duration of the agreement term.

I also ask that the Ontario Energy Board ensure that there is robust public participation in its upcoming hearing. I understand that Enbridge Gas has asked that a local environmental non-profit, eMERGE Guelph, be denied permission to participate in the hearing as an intervenor. I ask that the Ontario Energy Board deny Enbridge's request to block their participation. It is critical that the Ontario Energy Board hear environmental perspectives and the concerns of local Guelph residents.

I understand that Enbridge Gas is arguing that it did not even need to negotiate with the City of Guelph "given that the City of Guelph has not raised any issues unique to the municipality or its citizens that should lead the OEB to consider any deviation from the Model Franchise Agreement." This is disrespectful to all Guelph residents. The Model Franchise Agreement was created 25 years ago in the year 2000. A great deal has changed since that time, including a greatly increased moral, political, financial, and climate imperative to end all fossil fuel subsidies. It is not reasonable for Enbridge to decline to work with Guelph on the important points raised by the municipality and the Ontario Energy Board should not condone this by imposing an agreement on the municipality against the will of its Council and residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [mschreiner-co@ola.org](mailto:mschreiner-co@ola.org) or 519-836-4190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Schreiner".

Mike Schreiner  
MPP, Guelph

CC: Cam Guthrie, Mayor of Guelph