

-- Name --

Adam Fitzgerald

-- Do you reside in the impacted service area? -- Yes

-- Comments --

Re: EB-2024-0115 – Hydro Ottawa 2026 Distribution Rate Application

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a Barrhaven homeowner and ratepayer to demand that the Board not only reject Hydro Ottawa's proposed \$6.08/month increase but instead mandate a rate reduction of at least \$3/month for the average 750 kWh household. In today's economy—where mortgage rates, grocery bills and fuel costs have skyrocketed—this relief is not a luxury, it's a necessity.

1. Shielding Families from Energy Poverty Every dollar saved on utilities directly translates into meals on the table, warm homes in winter, and peace of mind. A \$3 monthly decrease will keep vulnerable households from choosing between heat or food, and prevent the serious health and safety risks of self-rationing essential services.

2. Lowering Arrears and Collection Costs Affordable bills mean fewer past-due accounts and disconnections. Reduced write-offs and collection efforts will improve Hydro Ottawa's cash flow—savings that should be passed back to customers, not held as corporate windfalls.

3. Boosting Local Economic Activity

When Barrhaven families have extra spending power, they reinvest in local shops, restaurants and services. This multiplier effect strengthens our community, creates jobs, and broadens the tax base—benefits that far outweigh the marginal revenue from higher distribution charges.

4. Aligning Rates with Efficiency Gains

Hydro Ottawa's own demand-management programs and smart-meter investments have delivered operational savings. It is only fair that these efficiencies be reflected immediately in customer rates, not deferred to future rate riders.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Board:

Order a \$3/month reduction in distribution charges for 750 kWh residential customers, effective January 1, 2026.

Prohibit any above-inflationary increases until Hydro Ottawa can demonstrate verifiable, year-over-year cost savings.

Require quarterly reporting on the deployment and customer uptake of energy-efficiency programs, with direct customer bill credits tied to measurable results.

The choice before you is clear: protect Barrhaven families now with real rate relief, or accept a temporary spike in utility revenue at the expense of household stability and local economic health. I trust the Board will do the right thing.

Thank you for your urgent consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Fitzgerald

