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**From:** Sharare Kiani

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 8:57 PM

**To:** Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>

**Subject:** Re: File Number EB-2024-0115 – Hydro Ottawa Limited Application for 2026 Rate Increase

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned resident and electricity customer of Hydro Ottawa to express my opposition to the proposed electricity rate increases outlined in Hydro Ottawa's application (EB-2024-0115), which seeks to increase rates effective January 1, 2026.

At a time when the cost of living is already rising significantly, this increase—\$6.08 per month for residential customers and \$14.57 for general service customers—adds additional and unnecessary financial strain on households and small businesses. While this amount may appear modest in isolation, it must be viewed in the broader context of inflation, higher food and housing costs, and cumulative rate increases over recent years. Many residents, especially those on fixed or low incomes, cannot afford yet another increase in a basic necessity.

Additionally, Hydro Ottawa is requesting the establishment of new deferral and variance accounts, changes to standby and miscellaneous charges, and a custom rate framework extending to 2030—all of which are complex and potentially burdensome. These changes raise concerns about transparency, long-term affordability, and whether there has been sufficient oversight to ensure cost efficiency and operational effectiveness within the utility itself.

I urge the Ontario Energy Board to require Hydro Ottawa to provide a more comprehensive justification for these proposed increases, including a detailed breakdown of cost-saving measures already implemented, and whether alternate funding or operational efficiencies could be used to avoid passing these costs on to customers.

Furthermore, I recommend that the OEB consider holding a **written or electronic hearing** rather than an oral one, to maximize public accessibility and ensure that a broad range of community voices can be heard.

Please take my concerns into account when evaluating this application. I ask that you protect consumers—especially vulnerable residents and small businesses—from undue rate increases and insist on a more equitable and transparent approach to utility pricing.

Sincerely,  
Sharareh Kiani