

-- Name --
Samii A

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

-- Comments --
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2701
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: Letter of Comment – Opposition to Hydro Ottawa’s Proposed Rate Increase

To the Ontario Energy Board Panel,

I am writing as a concerned ratepayer to formally oppose Hydro Ottawa’s proposed electricity rate increase currently under review. While I understand that utilities must recover costs and ensure system reliability, I find this rate increase both poorly timed and counterproductive, particularly in light of Ontario’s climate and sustainability goals.

We are in a critical decade for climate action, and governments at all levels — including municipal and provincial — have been actively encouraging citizens to make choices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These include adopting electric vehicles (EVs), installing heat pumps, and shifting to cleaner, electric-based solutions. All of these sustainability measures rely heavily on affordable and predictable electricity rates.

Hydro Ottawa, as a public utility that sources a significant portion of its electricity from clean hydroelectric power, should be leading the charge in encouraging — not discouraging — this transition. A rate increase sends precisely the wrong signal. It undermines the economic case for energy-efficient investments by households and businesses alike. Higher electricity prices will likely deter consumers from purchasing EVs, upgrading to electric heat pumps, or even pursuing home electrification — all actions that align with provincial and federal climate targets.

Moreover, this increase comes at a time when families are already struggling with rising costs of living. Adding further financial strain by increasing electricity rates risks creating public resentment toward necessary climate policy. If utilities are perceived as penalizing people for doing the right thing, trust in long-term decarbonization strategies will erode.

The OEB’s role includes ensuring rates are just, reasonable, and in the public interest. I urge the panel to consider whether this increase aligns with that mandate, especially when it will have a chilling effect on consumer behavior that directly supports Ontario’s clean energy future.

I respectfully request that the Board reject or significantly modify the proposed rate increase, and ask that Hydro Ottawa present a plan that aligns with the goals of climate responsibility, economic fairness, and long-term electrification.

Thank you for considering my comments in your deliberations.