-- Name --
John Cummings

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

-- Comments --
To: Ontario Energy Board
Re: File Number EB-2024-0115
Subject: Objection to Hydro Ottawa's Proposed Rate Increase

Dear Ontario Energy Board,
I am writing as a concerned and directly affected customer of Hydro Ottawa to register my strong opposition to the proposed electricity distribution rate increases outlined in Hydro Ottawa's recent application.

Electricity is not a luxury—it is a basic necessity. At a time when inflation continues to erode household budgets, this proposed rate hike of $6.08 per month for residential users (and over double that for small businesses) is both tone-deaf and unjustified. The current rates are already a burden for many Ontarians, and any increase, no matter how small it may seem on paper, has real and compounding consequences for working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small business owners trying to stay afloat.

Moreover, the proposal includes new deferral and variance accounts, changes to charges, and a formulaic framework for future increases tied to inflation and "efficiency." These mechanisms, while technical in nature, seem structured to normalize perpetual rate hikes without due regard for the financial strain on customers. This is not a plan for efficiency—it is a blueprint for unchecked escalation.

Customers cannot and should not be the safety net for financial or operational shortfalls in the electricity distribution system. Before considering any rate increases, Hydro Ottawa should first demonstrate that it has exhausted all internal cost-saving and efficiency measures and has prioritized ratepayer relief in its planning.

I urge the Ontario Energy Board to reject this rate increase and demand that Hydro Ottawa come back with a proposal that reflects today's economic realities—not just forecasts and formulas.
Ontarians deserve fair rates, transparent reasoning, and a utility that works for them—not the other way around.

Thank your for reviewing my comments.