

Dear Members of the Ontario Energy Board,

Re: EB-2025-0014 – Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. 2026 Electricity Distribution Rates

I am writing as the owner of multiple residential rental properties and apartment buildings in Oshawa, and as an advocate for safe, affordable housing in our community. Electricity costs are already a significant expense for landlords and tenants alike, and together my properties incur nearly \$80,000 in distribution charges each year. While I fully support Ontario's environmental goals and the shift to electric heating and electric vehicles, the proposed rate increases for 2026 risk discouraging that transition and placing an undue burden on households and small landlords who are striving to make ends meet.

Many of my tenants are on fixed or modest incomes, and I work hard to balance the need for reasonable rents with the rising costs of utilities. Further increases to distribution rates—even if modest on a per-customer basis—translate into hundreds of extra dollars of annual expense per household. At a time when food, housing, and transportation costs are already stretching budgets, pushing up electricity bills will force families to make difficult trade-offs, or to delay the very investments in energy-efficient technologies that the Board aims to encourage.

I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider the proposed increases and to explore alternatives that support both affordability and the province's environmental objectives. Options might include:

- Phasing in rate adjustments over a longer period to soften year-over-year impacts;
- Introducing targeted relief or low-income rate assistance for multi-unit residential buildings;
- Creating incentives or credits for landlords and tenants who invest in energy-efficient upgrades;
- Re-examining time-of-use structures to reward off-peak consumption more generously.

By working collaboratively with industry stakeholders, small landlords, and community advocates, the OEB can ensure that Ontario remains both a leader in clean energy adoption and a place where all residents have access to reliable, reasonably priced electricity. Thank you for your careful consideration of these concerns. I would be pleased to provide further information or to participate in any stakeholder consultations to help shape a balanced outcome.

Sincerely,

Paul Punnoose