

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

EB-2025-0058

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S. O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Enbridge Gas Ins. for approval of a franchise agreement and new CPCN in the City of Guelph

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT BLAKENEY

I, ROBERT BLAKENEY, of the City of Guelph, in the Province of Ontario, hereby AFFIRM:

1. I have resided in the City of Guelph for roughly fourteen years and have worked as a professional engineer for 37 years.
2. As an engineer, I specialize in high-performance building design, including electrifying (decarbonizing) building heating systems. I have sat on the Canada Green Building Council's Technical Advisory Group, as well as the Board of Directors of Passive Buildings Canada. I was also a Board member of Transition Guelph, a branch of the Transition Town network, a community-led initiative that empowers local communities to build resilience and sustainability by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and fostering local solutions to climate change, economic instability, and resource scarcity position. Because of this work, I have knowledge of the information contained below.
3. I make this affidavit in relation to the City of Guelph's request for modified franchise agreement terms as part of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s application to the Ontario Energy Board.

Opposition to Enbridge Gas Inc.'s Application

4. I understand that the City of Guelph has asked for terms in an agreement with Enbridge relating to fees for use of public land and relating to the costs to relocate pipelines. Those terms would: a) allow the City of Guelph to charge fees for use of public property if and

when Ontario Regulation 584/06 is amended to allow such charges and b) ensure that the City of Guelph is not liable to pay for any gas infrastructure relocations needed due to conflicts with municipal infrastructure. I also understand that Enbridge opposes those terms and is seeking to impose an agreement against the will of Guelph and its residents.

5. As a local taxpayer and voter, I oppose Enbridge Gas Inc.'s attempt to impose an unfair franchise agreement on Guelph residents like me.
6. In my personal life, I have devoted significant time and money to decarbonize my family home. This includes electrifying our home heating, ending all use of natural gas and disconnecting our gas meter from the gas main. As a professional engineer, I have spent over two decades supporting homeowners, businesses and institutions in Guelph and beyond to achieve building energy efficiency. As manager of the city's energy program at the City of Guelph between 2011 -2014, I implemented energy efficiency projects across all facilities at the City of Guelph - the largest nonindustrial user of natural gas in Guelph. In my own consulting practice over the past 12 years, I have helped 100% of my clients entirely eliminate dependence on fossil fuels via electrification.
7. The proposed terms are unfair to taxpayers by forcing us to subsidize the gas system through free access to public lands, and by locking in that subsidy for long into the future. It is also unfair to make us contribute to the cost of relocating pipelines that conflict with public infrastructure when nothing has been paid by the gas company for use of those lands.
8. This unfairness is particularly problematic for people like me and my clients, who have worked hard and invested in getting off gas. Requiring us to subsidize the gas system both now and long into the future prevents us from being able to free ourselves from gas system costs.
9. The proposed agreement also inflicts ethical harm on taxpayers and voters like me. I do not want to contribute to climate change by funding fossil fuel subsidies. Climate change is an existential crisis for humanity that threatens the lives and wellbeing of our children and the next generation as a whole.

10. A world where we continue to subsidize fossil fuels will be a catastrophe, especially for the most vulnerable. The proposed agreement forces us to financially support an incredibly damaging system contrary to our deeply held ethical beliefs.
11. As a Guelph resident and taxpayer, I was happy to see that our elected officials were seeking to represent the best interests of taxpayers and business owners like me. We should have the choice about whether our lands and tax dollars will be used to support fossil fuel consumption.
12. I hope that the Board will reject Enbridge Gas Inc.'s attempt to bypass the City's interests and the interests of taxpayers.

AFFIRMED REMOTELY BY video)
 conference by Robert Blakeney, stated)
 as being at the City of Guelph, Province)
 of Ontario, before me in the City of)
 Toronto, Province of Ontario on this)
 30th day of June 2025, in accordance)
 with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering)
 Oath or Declaration Remotely.)
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Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
 Kate Siemiatycki
 LSO No. 72392C

ROBERT BLAKENEY