From:	Office of the Registrar
To:	Zulma DeBonis
Subject:	Redacted - Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2025-0163
Date:	Wednesday, August 13, 2025 11:45:00 AM

From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 9:15 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>
Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2025-0163

LETTER OF COMMENT

Comments:

August 12 2025 Ontario Energy Board Application EB 2025 0163 Enbridge Gas Inc rate increase effective January 1 2026 Dear Members of the Board I am writing to register my strong objection to Enbridge Gas Inc proposed increases to natural gas distribution rates slated to take effect on January 1 2026 under application EB 2025 0163. I urge the Ontario Energy Board to deny or at minimum significantly cap these increases in order to safeguard what should be a basic human right which is access to a warm secure home. Ordinary Ontarians are currently navigating a relentless affordability crisis. Food prices, shelter costs and everyday expenses remain elevated. According to the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy Annual Report the poverty rate in Ontario rose from seven point seven in 2021 to ten point nine in 2022 which is an increase of three point two percentage points in a single year. Children have been especially affected. Over half a million children under eighteen in Ontario nearly one in five are living in poverty. Between 2021 and 2022 alone child poverty increased by three point five percentage points adding over one hundred thousand children to the ranks of those in need which is the largest spike recorded. Welfare supports remain far below the poverty line. Ontario Works remains at seven hundred thirty three dollars per month with no inflation indexing and ODSP recipients barely see incremental increases that still leave them well beneath basic living costs. This is untenable. While households suffer Enbridge Inc reported record financial gains in 2024. Full year adjusted earnings reached eight point one billion Canadian dollars up from seven point seven billion in 2023. Earnings before interest taxes depreciation and amortization reached twenty five point one billion Canadian dollars an increase of thirteen percent year over year. Distributable cash flow grew to sixteen point two billion Canadian dollars up six percent. These surging profits and the capacity to raise dividends contrast sharply with the financial precarity of thousands of working families across Ontario. Over the last ten years residential natural gas rates have steadily climbed. In the Union North East rate zone the effective price in January 2015 was approximately fourteen point one one cents per cubic metre. In January 2020 it was approximately twelve point eight two cents per cubic metre. In January 2022 it was sixteen point four four cents per cubic metre. In January 2023 it was thirty three point five seven cents per cubic metre. In July 2025 it was nineteen point nine four cents per cubic metre. The leap from about fourteen cents per cubic metre to nearly thirty four cents at its peak then stabilizing around twenty cents represents more than a fifty percent increase over a decade. For the average household using about twenty three hundred cubic metres annually this has meant hundreds of dollars more in heating costs at the highest points. Meanwhile Enbridge parent company has posted enormous profits with adjusted earnings of about eight point one billion Canadian dollars EBITDA of twenty five point one billion Canadian dollars and distributable cash flow of sixteen point two

billion Canadian dollars in 2024. These gains continue while low and fixed income families have fewer options. They cannot easily reduce their gas usage and must endure the impact. It is both reasonable and just that Enbridge position as a regulated utility and not a profiteer from essential services should translate into meaningful financial relief for struggling Ontarians rather than continued rate hikes that deepen hardship. I respectfully urge the Ontario Energy Board to reject or cap the proposed increases to ensure they do not make hardship worse. I also ask that you promote policies that reflect access to heat as a fundamental human necessity and not a luxury and explore alternative cost recovery mechanisms for Enbridge that do not place the heaviest burden on low income households. Enbridge ability to absorb modest revenue constraints while maintaining profitability should be balanced against the provinces growing affordability crisis. Natural gas is not optional. Without heat families face real physical harm and stress. The Ontario Energy Board has a duty to weigh these human consequences alongside regulatory norms. Thank you for considering this letter and for your continued commitment to energy equity in Ontario.

Name: Sean Ritchie

Do you reside in the impacted service area?: No