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From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 9:03 PM

To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>

Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2025-0163

-- Name --

Matthew McLeod

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

-- Comments --

I am writing as a concerned Ontario resident to urge the Ontario Energy Board to reject Enbridge Gas's application to increase natural gas distribution rates for 2026.

The proposed increases ranging from \$31 to \$46 per year for the average residential customer come at a time when many households are already struggling with unprecedented cost-of-living pressures. Energy is not a discretionary expense, and any increase will hit low- and middle-income families hardest.

Several aspects of the application raise serious concerns:

1. **\*\*Cost Shifting Without Clear Justification\*\*** Enbridge proposes moving \$50 million in overhead capital expenses into ongoing operating and maintenance costs. This structural change appears to inflate short term expenses without demonstrating a long-term benefit for consumers or measurable efficiency gains.

2. **\*\*No Evidence of Operational Efficiencies\*\*** While the application references the OEB-approved incentive rate-making mechanism, it provides no tangible examples of cost-saving measures or productivity improvements that would offset these increases. The IRM framework should not be treated as a guaranteed price escalator without demonstrated efficiency.

3. **\*\*Misuse of Carbon Charge Changes\*\***

With the federal carbon charge set to zero as of April 1, 2025, customers should expect relief, not additional charges. Enbridge's attempt to recoup working capital impacts from this change undermines the intended consumer benefit of the policy shift.

Approving this application would unfairly burden households, reward inefficiency, and set a troubling precedent that utilities can restructure costs and increase rates without delivering proportional benefits to the public.

I respectfully urge the OEB to deny Enbridge's application in its current form and require the company to first demonstrate genuine efficiency improvements, transparent cost structures, and alignment with the public interest.