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From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>  
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 1:16 PM  
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>  
Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2025-0064

-- Name --

Vanessa Ess

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

-- Comments --

Dear Members of the Ontario Energy Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Enbridge Gas Inc.'s request for a natural gas distribution rate increase, effective January 1, 2026. While I understand that rate increases are often linked to inflation and operational costs, I believe that approving this particular increase would unfairly burden Ontarians, particularly in light of Enbridge Gas's financial performance and history of price hikes.

#### Profitability of Enbridge Gas

Enbridge Gas has consistently reported substantial profits in recent years. According to their financial statements, they have seen robust returns year after year, despite the ongoing challenges posed by inflation and economic uncertainty. Given their continued profitability, I fail to see why they need to increase rates on customers, especially when many Ontarians are already grappling with the rising cost of living. Rather than passing these costs on to the consumer, Enbridge Gas should be focused on increasing operational efficiency or exploring other revenue sources.

#### Price Gouging Concerns

I am also concerned about the potential for price gouging. It appears that Enbridge Gas is seeking to capitalize on the essential nature of natural gas for residential heating and business operations. As we have seen in other sectors, companies with significant market control often raise prices without justification, leveraging their position to extract more money from consumers who have little choice but to pay. Given that Enbridge Gas operates as a near-monopoly in the region, any rate increase has the potential to be seen as an example of such behavior, and I believe the OEB should be cautious about allowing any further financial strain on customers who have limited options.

#### Impact on Vulnerable Customers

Many Ontarians, especially low-income households and small businesses, are already struggling to meet basic needs. Forcing them to pay an additional \$31 annually would disproportionately affect those who are already facing tough financial circumstances. I urge the OEB to consider the broader social and economic impact of approving such a rate increase, as it could exacerbate inequality in the province.

#### Conclusion

In light of Enbridge Gas's strong financial performance, concerns about price gouging, and the economic impact on consumers, I ask that the Ontario Energy Board carefully reconsider Enbridge Gas's application for rate increases. I believe that the OEB has an obligation to protect consumers from unjustifiable price hikes, and to ensure that utilities operate with fairness and transparency.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Ess

