



-- Name --

Luka Ledoux

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

-- Comments --

I would first like to express my disappointment with the accessibility of this comment form. If the OEB is interested in getting feedback, this form needs to be easier to find, perhaps linked directly in the email sent by Enbridge advising of the rate increases.

On the matter of Enbridge's proposed distribution rate increases, I would like to remind ourselves that Enbridge is a monopoly, being nearly the only option for gas distribution in Ontario. They are not incentivized to cut costs or find efficiencies as they have do not have to compete. As such, every few years they can apply to increase rates and I question how often those proposals are actually denied or challenged. Enbridge will use inflation as a justification to increase their rates, but is it really Enbridge who we should be protecting from inflation, or the average consumer? Many households (if not most) do not have incomes that keep up with inflation, and yet we will allow Enbridge to do so? They are a profitable company and publicly traded which means their incentive is to increase their return to shareholders. As a result, we pull more and more money from the average household, for a service that is essential in Canada (home heating), in order for Enbridge to increase their profits and returns to shareholders. This is a system that is structured to disproportionately move wealth from the low income earners to the high income earners in our society.

To the OEB, please re-consider the methods you use to evaluate rate increases. When dealing with a publicly traded monopoly which has no incentive to save their customers money, we need to hold them to a higher standard. Comparing them to other utilities in other western countries to see if they are competitive or lining their pockets might offer some insight. Based on Enbridge's current profitability it seems to me that it's the latter, and that if forced to keep rates fixed, they would find real ways to improve and reduce costs.

Thank you for your work in regulating and keeping these companies honest and accountable.