

## LETTER OF COMMENT

### Comments:

Proposing a climate-appropriate alternative to Enbridge Gas Inc.'s application to construct natural gas pipelines to serve the communities of Lanark and Balderson and surrounding communities. OEB File #: EB-2025-0306 The impacts of climate change are well documented: -hotter temperatures, -more extreme and severe weather, -increased droughts, -warming and rising oceans, -loss of biodiversity, -increased food insecurity, -increased health risks, -poverty and displacement. Climate change affects me, my family and friends. It is my responsibility as a citizen of Lanark County and Canada to speak out against measures which will add more greenhouse gas emissions to the environment with attendant impacts—and more importantly, my responsibility to champion alternatives. Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—are the primary driver of climate change, responsible for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Natural gas is a fossil fuel energy source primarily composed of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. The Ontario Energy Board stated the use of natural gas in the future is a bad economic deal for consumers The OEB has raised the issue of stranded assets; consumers in Lanark would be required to sign a 40-year contract to pay for any stranded assets. Jason Dion, senior research director at the Canadian Climate Institute was quoted by CBC in June of 2024, "Expanding gas infrastructure to heat buildings today would be like investing heavily in a chain of video rental stores 15 years ago." So a scenario: someone in Lanark village signs up with Enbridge in 2026—with the sharp and inevitable increase in the costs of all fossil fuels, the homeowner realizes by 2030 that she wants to switch to a heat pump but is locked in with Enbridge until 2066. The expansion surcharge for Enbridge's proposed pipelines would be \$0.23 per m3 for a duration of 40 years; a typical home would use 2,320 m3 of natural gas per year—\$44/month for 40 years. Finally, increasing the use of fossil fuels runs counter to Canada achieving its net-zero goal of 2050. An alternative to the proposed pipelines would be to have the Province of Ontario redirect its subsidy for gas pipelines to subsidies for heat pumps. In this case, redirecting the subsidy to the projected number of customers signing up—286—would amount to a subsidy of \$44,312.68 per customer. With the same subsidy, more than twice as many people could get a free heat pump installed and secure comparative lower energy bills versus gas.

**Name:** Gordon Harrison

**Do you reside in the impacted service area?:** No

**Was AI used for the letter of comment?:** No

