[redacted]

-- Name --
Grant Rivard

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

-- Comments --
To the Ontario Energy Board,

I am writing as a residential customer of E.L.K. Energy to express my opposition to the proposed electricity rate increase under application EB-2026-0032.

Like many Ontario households, my family continues to face rising costs for groceries, housing, insurance, transportation, and other everyday necessities. Electricity is an essential service, and consumers have very little control over the rates they are required to pay. While the proposed increase of approximately $5.63 per month may seem relatively small, it represents yet another additional expense for households already managing increasingly tight budgets.

I understand that maintaining reliable electrical infrastructure requires ongoing investment and that utility providers face their own rising expenses. However, I believe greater consideration needs to be given to the cumulative financial burden being placed on residential customers. Year after year, even relatively modest increases add up, and families cannot continuously absorb higher costs without consequences.

I am also concerned that Ontario's electricity commodity rates are scheduled to decrease in November 2026, yet consumers may see little benefit from those reductions when increases in distribution charges and changes to provincial rebates are taken into account. While these charges are regulated differently, the reality is that customers ultimately pay one electricity bill. It is frustrating to hear that electricity prices are decreasing while the overall cost of receiving that electricity may continue to rise.

I am also concerned that E.L.K. Energy's application proposes increasing its annual distribution revenue requirement from approximately $4.27 million to $6.72 million, an increase of roughly 57%, before proposed adjustments and cost deferrals. I am not opposed to necessary investments that ensure safe and reliable service. However, I believe every reasonable effort should be made to manage existing resources, control expenses, and minimize the need for additional charges before passing more costs on to consumers.

I respectfully ask the Ontario Energy Board to consider the financial pressures facing ordinary households and to carefully evaluate whether this proposed increase is necessary at this time, or whether alternatives could reduce or eliminate the additional burden on customers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-- Was AI used for the letter of comment? --

Yes