[redacted]

-- Name --
Jessica Taylor

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

-- Comments --
Re: EB-2026-0164 – Objection to Hydro One's Proposed 2028–2032 Rate Increases

I am writing to formally express my opposition to Hydro One's proposed five-year transmission and distribution rate increases.

Electricity is an essential service, not a luxury. Ontario residents are already dealing with an extremely high cost of living, including rising housing costs, groceries, insurance, property taxes and other basic necessities. Electricity bills are already a significant expense for many households, and continually increasing the cost of an essential utility places yet another financial burden on ordinary working people.

There comes a point where enough is enough. Consumers cannot be expected to absorb an endless series of rate increases while wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of living. For homeowners, particularly those in rural communities who may have limited alternatives and additional household energy demands, these costs are especially concerning.

I recognize that maintaining and upgrading electricity infrastructure is necessary. However, that should not mean customers automatically bear the cost of every proposed investment or operational expense without meaningful scrutiny.

Before approving any increases, I believe the Ontario Energy Board must require Hydro One to clearly demonstrate:

- Why these additional costs are necessary and whether all proposed investments are essential.
- What measures have been taken to control operating expenses and improve efficiency.
- Whether alternative, more cost-effective approaches have been adequately considered.
- How Hydro One is ensuring that its financial decisions do not place an unreasonable burden on residential customers.
- Why consumers should be expected to continually pay more for an essential service that they have no practical choice but to use.

I am particularly concerned about the cumulative effect of these increases over five years. Even when individual monthly increases are presented as relatively small amounts, they add to an already expensive utility bill and come on top of increases in virtually every other area of household spending.

Consumers should not simply be expected to accept higher costs year after year without sufficient transparency, accountability and justification.

I am asking the Ontario Energy Board to thoroughly scrutinize this application, challenge unnecessary expenditures, and reject or substantially reduce any proposed increases that cannot be adequately justified. Affordability for residential customers must be treated as a priority, not an afterthought.

Ontario residents deserve reliable electricity, but they also deserve rates that are reasonable, transparent and affordable.

Thank you for considering my comments as part of this proceeding.

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