[redacted]

Dear Ontario Energy Board Commissioners,

I am writing as a residential customer of Hydro One Networks Inc. in Elliot Lake, Ontario, to object to the proposed rate increases in Hydro One's 2028–2032 Joint Transmission and Distribution Custom Incentive Rate-Setting Framework Application (EB-2026-0164).

Any further increase in electricity delivery charges—whether from transmission or distribution—would place a severe additional burden on low- and fixed-income households at a time when many people are already struggling. Ontario's economy is weak, job opportunities are limited in many communities, and the cost of housing, food, and other basics has risen sharply. Many seniors and people on pensions are already skipping meals or cutting back on essentials. Households living paycheck to paycheck, including my own, see the majority of their income go to rent and basic necessities, leaving little or no room for higher utility bills.

I recognize that the electricity system requires maintenance and investment. However, the scale of the proposed spending and the resulting rate impacts are not acceptable for customers who have no ability to absorb higher costs. Distribution Rate Protection provides some relief for medium- and low-density residential customers, but it does not offset the overall upward pressure from transmission charges and other bill components, nor does it fully protect those already at the financial edge.

I urge the Board to:

- Reject or substantially reduce the proposed revenue requirements and capital expenditures;
- Prioritize affordability for residential customers, particularly low-income, senior, and fixed-income households;
- Ensure that any approved spending is limited to the most essential reliability and safety work; and
- Direct Hydro One to pursue greater cost control and efficiency before seeking rate increases.

I ask that these concerns be placed on the record and carefully considered in your decision on this application.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Lucia Santocono [redacted]