[redacted]

Re: EB-2026-0164 – Hydro One Networks Inc. – 2028–2032 Distribution Rates

To the Ontario Energy Board panel:

I am a year-round rural residential customer of Hydro One in the Low Density (R2) rate class. I live on a modest income and expect to move into semi-retirement within four years, when my income will be fixed or lower while the cost of basic necessities keeps rising.

Exhibit L shows my class's monthly fixed charge rising about 26% in 2028, from $156.78 to $198.10, and reaching $251.79 by 2032 on illustrative figures. I understand that the Distribution Rate Protection (DRP) program and the Rural or Remote Rate Protection credit largely shield customers like me. My household depends on these protections. The Notice of Hearing also shows transmission charges rising on top of this: for a typical medium-density residential customer, from $0.50 a month in 2028 to $1.53 in 2032, about $5.69 a month cumulatively. I ask the panel to consider the combined effect on fixed-income households.

I respectfully ask the panel to:

1. Ensure nothing in this application weakens DRP or rural rate protection. Hydro One assumes the DRP cap stays at about $45.80 through 2032, but it is adjusted yearly for inflation, so my actual bill may rise more than shown.

2. Protect reclassified customers. About 14,000 R1 and R2 customers are proposed to move to the Urban class in 2028 and would apparently lose DRP. Please require advance notice, a bill impact for them specifically, and a phase-in.

3. Require impact information for low-income and low-usage households, and an explanation of how Hydro One will inform customers about assistance such as the Ontario Electricity Support Program.

4. Test the revenue requirement carefully. Approve only costs shown to be necessary and prudent, weighing affordability for rural and fixed-income customers.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Tracey Ager,

