

Ministry of Energy

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MC-994-2021-752

December 1, 2021

Ms Susanna Zagar
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
PO Box 2319
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Zagar:

As you know, it is a priority of our government to ensure that Ontario families and businesses have access to affordable energy as we continue to address the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and as we enter the winter heating season.

As a result of global supply and demand issues that transcend Ontario's borders, energy prices have increased significantly in recent months across the world. This includes the price of natural gas, which is essential for many Ontarians as they heat their homes and businesses throughout the winter months. Additionally, the federal carbon tax continues to increase the cost of natural gas every year.

I encourage the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to consider every tool available to mitigate natural gas price increases as part of its upcoming Quarterly Rate Adjustment Mechanism (QRAM) to help Ontarians through this winter. I have also written Enbridge to encourage them to consider fully all mitigation opportunities for the upcoming QRAM. I know that the OEB has mitigated price increases in the past, most recently in October 2021 and significantly in 2014, and that OEB staff identified a potential need to mitigate prices as we move into 2022 as part of the last QRAM process.

The government appreciates the OEB's continued efforts to apply mitigation measures as appropriate in setting natural gas rates, particularly due to the challenges that Ontario families and businesses are facing due to the pandemic, rising costs and, of course, the need for home heating throughout the winter months.

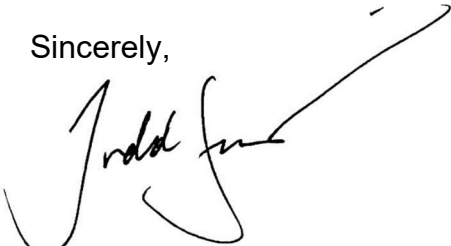
I also encourage the OEB to put this letter on the record for proceedings associated with the January through March 2022 QRAM.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I will continue to pay close attention to Enbridge's proposed mitigation plans and the OEB's final decision in the coming weeks.

As always, I look forward to continuing to work with you to protect Ontario's energy consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd Smith
Minister