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February 26, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND EMAIL

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary, Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Late request for Cost Award Eligibility

**Encouraging Electricity Distributor Efficiency Consultative
Board File No: EB-2012-0397**

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (“CFIB”) to seek cost award eligibility in the above noted matter.

Late request for Cost Award Eligibility:

CFIB apologizes to the Board for the lateness of its submission. CFIB accepts the record as is.

Request for Cost Award Eligibility:

We respectfully submit that CFIB should be granted cost eligibility in this proceeding based on the following:

1. Founded in 1971, CFIB is a not-for-profit organization, public interest entity, representing the interests of more than 107,000 owners of small and medium-sized businesses, distributed across all industry sectors and all regions of Canada. CFIB is the largest self-employed organization in Canada. Approximately 42,000 of the 107,000 CFIB’s members are located in Ontario. As such, CFIB’s members represent a large portion of the commercial electricity consumers in Ontario.
2. CFIB aims at ensuring the economic development of its members - whether they are one person home-based businesses or companies employing hundreds of people -, for the best interest of their community and the citizens of Ontario.

3. Having participated in the Board's Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity, CFIB believes that it will have constructive suggestions to address the establishment of appropriate standards for performance for utilities, and changes to distributor incentives and programming. CFIB believes helping to achieve greater efficiency by distributors will have significant impact on CFIB's members, as commercial electricity consumers, and ultimately on their community.
4. CFIB's members mirror and reflect the regional and economic diversity of Ontario, as they include many commercial sectors such as agriculture, natural resources, construction, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, transportation, arts and information, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, professional services, enterprises and administrative management, social services, hospitality, personal, miscellaneous services and others. As diversified commercial electricity consumers, CFIB's members are concerned with all matters pertaining to the supply and price of electricity.
5. As a non-profit organization, CFIB does not have access to any other funding sources. CFIB relies on the cost awards it receives from the Board to effectively participate in, and assist the Ontario Energy Board, in these regulatory processes. The Ontario Energy Board has determined in prior proceedings that CFIB is eligible for a cost award.

CFIB Contacts:

If the relief requested in this letter is granted, CFIB requests that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

**Plamen Petkov, Director, Provincial
Affairs, Ontario**

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In the event that CFIB is eligible for a cost award, please forward payment on behalf of CFIB to “Fasken Martineau, in Trust”.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Yours truly,

FASKEN MARTINEAU DUMOULIN LLP



Richard D. Butler

CC: *Plamen Petkov, CFIB*
André Turmel, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
Paula Zarnett, BDR Consultant