

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

SUBJECT: Ontario Energy Board, Leave to Construct Modernization

DATE:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

IN FAVOUR:

OPPOSED:

WHEREAS: Ontario Residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief;

AND WHEREAS: Natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in the cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating;

AND WHEREAS: Natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future;

AND WHEREAS: The Natural Gas Expansion Program provides subsidies to bring natural gas to communities across Ontario but currently cannot be redirected by municipalities toward the best option for their residents - heat pumps;

AND WHEREAS: Far more residents could achieve far lower energy bills if municipalities were allowed to redirect those subsidies toward heat pumps for their residents, which would also benefit existing natural gas customers by reducing the financial risks they bear in relation to the gas expansion projects;

AND WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario is considering requests from Enbridge Gas Inc. to reduce oversight by the Ontario Energy Board over gas expansion and other pipeline projects at a time when the Ontario Energy Board's technical and financial expertise is critical as the energy transition takes place;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the [municipality name] petitions the Ontario Government to expedite the implementation of the following recommendations:

i) THAT the Government of Ontario amend the Natural Gas Expansion Program to allow municipalities to redirect funds toward heat pumps, including for ongoing Phase II projects;

ii) AND THAT the Government of Ontario maintain the existing Ontario Energy Board oversight mechanisms and thresholds for gas pipeline projects; and

iii) AND THAT the Government of Ontario ask the Ontario Energy Board to determine in gas expansion leave-to-construct applications which option would result in the lowest energy bills - directing the subsidy to gas expansion or to heat pump subsidies.

2. AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, The Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy and to all regional municipalities from whom Enbridge has requested support of the proposed changes.

x _____

MAYOR of *[municipality name]*

_____ *Date*

File Name: Draft Alternative to Enbridge Resolution OEB Leave to Construct Modernization CNL 24 Nov 2023

Background supporting information: <https://www.cleanairalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ED-and-OCAA-comments-re-Gas-Expansion-v2.pdf>.

Background supporting information: [outlook](#).