

From: Gaby Kalapos <gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 12:34:33 PM
To: cburghardtjesson@middlesex.ca <cburghardtjesson@middlesex.ca>
Subject: Template Resolution to Reduce Fossil Fuel Energy Bill Costs

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Dear Warden Cathy Burghardt-Jesson:

I am writing to share some information on a recent Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision that was a topic of discussion at the [January 2024 Ontario Climate Caucus meeting](#). In December of 2023, the OEB made a decision to end a subsidy for gas pipelines in new developments to reduce energy costs for Ontarians. The OEB ended the subsidy because it is bad for existing gas customers and bad for new homebuyers. The subsidy is bad for existing gas customers because they pay for the subsidy through higher energy bills. This is a major capital cost, amounting to over \$250 million in costs to the rate base each year. The subsidy is also bad for new homebuyers because it incentivizes developers to install gas equipment, which is more expensive to operate than heat pumps now available.

Enbridge has been reaching out to municipalities to get municipal support for overturning the OEB decision. But the OEB decision would *lower* gas rates for residents and benefit municipal climate plans, so municipalities are advancing resolutions *supporting* the OEB decision ([like this one in Hamilton](#)).

[A letter from Environmental Defence sent to municipal clerks](#) has been responding to Enbridge's municipal outreach and a [draft support resolution](#) for the OEB decision has been shared with Ontario Climate Caucus members. More information regarding this topic is available at the [Ontario Climate Caucus hub](#) and please do reach out if you have any additional questions.

Thanks, Gaby

Gaby Kalapos
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