Ms. Marika Hare, Board Secretary June 9, 2014

Ontario Energy Board

25th Floor, 2300 Yonge St.

Toronto, Ontario

# Board Enquiry into Rate Design for Electricity Distributors (EB-2012-0410)

Dear Ms. Hare:

With over 36,000 members, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada’s largest voluntary membership farm group. OFA’s directors are elected by farm members with a mandate to guide OFA when it speaks to government and others on behalf of Ontario farmers. Over the years, OFA has promoted rural electrification, safer wiring and Rural Rate Assistance. In recent years, OFA participated in Ontario’s Integrated Power System Plans, various hydro distribution and transmission hearings, the net vs. gross hearing, the proceeding on stray voltage and the advisory panel on time of use rates.

In terms of consequence for farmers, our best estimates suggest farmers use about 4% of Ontario’s electricity and provide about 20% of Hydro One’s distribution revenue. Farmers have also lead Ontario in conservation. Rates and rate design are of immediate consequence to Ontario farmers and of great consequence to the food processing industry that employs over 400,000 Ontario residents and that is our primary group of customers.

Because of the ongoing Hydro One Distribution rates hearing, OFA has not been able to participate actively in the review of rate design. Although we have not been able to attend, farmers and food processors are significant grid customers with an ongoing interest in the grid and how the costs of power is set and shared in Ontario. Accordingly, OFA has prepared the attached eight page note and asks that it be considered by the Board panel in its deliberations. The attached note was discussed and approved by OFA’s Executive Committee on Friday June 6 and we are sending it at the earliest opportunity.

I ask that you share this note with the panel members, Board staff active on the topic and active list of intervenors.

If Board members, staff or other participants have questions in respect of this enclosed note. Mr. Ted Cowan, who is with the OFA, undertakes to answer any such questions. He can be reached by e-mail at ted.cowan@ofa.on.ca or by phone at 416 660 5545.

It is always a privilege for OFA to participate in Board proceedings. OFA prides itself on contributing positively and at no cost to the public. And we appreciate the efforts the Board makes, to be accessible and to make participation easier for groups like ours. Again, thank you for your time and consideration; it is greatly appreciated.

With respect and best wishes,

Ted Cowan

For the OFA