



July 29, 2014

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

Via Web and Post

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Board File Number: EB-2014-0158
Review of Part II of the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010*

The Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) is the voice of Ontario's electricity distributors, or electricity utilities, the more than 70 publicly and privately owned companies that safely and reliably deliver electricity to all Ontarians through 4.9 million homes, businesses, and public institutions.

The EDA welcomes the ability to participate in the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) consultation process to review the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010 (ECPA)*. The EDA's long standing policy position concerning electricity retailing in Ontario is that we support the curtailment of any future electricity retailer contracts for Ontario's residential electricity customers. This position was first detailed in our report *Power to Deliver* in 2012 and since then the EDA has undertaken significant advocacy efforts on this issue on behalf of LDC customers including supporting legislative efforts to phase out retailer contracts. Therefore, the undertaking of this review of the effectiveness of the current legislative and regulatory regime around electricity retailing in Ontario is of particular importance to our sector's efforts on behalf of its customers.

Due to the implications that continued electricity retailer activities governed by the *ECPA* have on the interests of Ontario's electricity distributors and their customers, the EDA is requesting the OEB grant full cost awards for our participation in this consultation.

The EDA's participation in this process with cost awards would allow external expert assistance to be utilized to focus on a number of the key areas in the scope of the OEB's review. Outside support will allow the EDA to present evidence in regard to the consumer experience with electricity retailers and the conduct of electricity retailers; but more importantly provide an

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Electricity Distributors Association

3700 Steeles Ave. W., Suite 1100, Vaughan, Ontario L4L 8K8 Tel 905.265.5300 1.800.668.9979 Fax 905.265.5301 email@eda-on.ca www.eda-on.ca

analysis of the overall state of the retail energy markets in Ontario and the ramifications for LDC customers since their inception.

The consultation on the *ECPA* is a process that the OEB should grant cost wards to the EDA given the continued and well documented pro-consumer policy position on this issue and the EDA's ongoing advocacy work to curtail retailer contracts to protect Ontario's ratepayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Sarkesian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Teresa Sarkesian
Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs
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