

20 March 2024

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Guelph, Ontario. ██████████

Members of the Guelph City Council,

I am writing in support of Councillor Caron's motion to join the City of Hamilton in urging the Conservative government of Ontario to accept the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision regarding new gas infrastructure. The misnamed Bill, *Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024*, which overrides that decision, is retrograde and wrongheaded.

Last year was the warmest in the recorded human history of our planet and this winter, more correctly this non-winter, speaks to the reality that climate change is happening now. The signs of the climate emergency, recognized by this City Council, are all around. And so are its costs – which will only rise if nothing is done.

Either we act to halt climate change – or we keep pouring CO2 into the atmosphere – and threaten a livable human future.

Weaning ourselves off fossil fuels is difficult and painful enough without supporting and subsidizing new infrastructure to encourage more of its use. The near monopoly of gas companies like Enbridge is being challenged by people who want clean alternatives. As a result, Enbridge is feeling threatened and want to lock-in Ontario energy consumers into a decades-long dependence on fossil fuels.

I would urge that Guelph City Council send a clear message to Queen's Park to reverse its stand and accept the OEB decision.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lawson'.

John Lawson