

SUBJECT: Request to Speak at March 26 Council Meeting Regarding Agenda Item 4.1

Your Worship, and Members of Council, City Clerk's Office,

Good day. We are writing to you with the request to speak and delegate at the upcoming City Council on Tuesday March 26, 2024. As grade eleven students attending high school in the City of Guelph, we come representing a diverse group of youth from across the city. We wish to speak to agenda item 4.1: Support for the Decision of the Ontario Energy Board to End the Gas Pipeline Subsidy.

We support this decision wholeheartedly and ask that you show your support of the Ontario Energy Board to the Premier, the Minister and to your colleagues on municipal councils across the province.

As young adults, decisions concerning energy sources and their costs such as these will have a major impact on our lives. Most climate targets will be either met or missed within our early adult lives, and will predict how many aspects of our lives will look. Things such as choice of energy sources, and whether costs are put on developers or homeowners, will directly shape our future climate and housing situations. Overturning the Ontario Energy Board decision to end the natural gas pipeline subsidy will determine affordability and climate for the next 60 years of our lives, and we would like to offer our opinions on the decision.

This decision will result in a missed opportunity to change the course of our future. Fossil fuels must be phased out of our community. It must be replaced with local energy efficiency, conservation, renewables . None of these will have significant carbon emissions. If we miss this window of opportunity to take action, we will be failing to play our part in preventing the climate crisis from worsening. Failure to develop solutions now will result in youth today paying the price in the years to come.

In closing, we would like to stress once more the relevance of this issue to us as youth. We care deeply about the climate, and the lives of current and future citizens. We firmly believe that one way we can help is to advocate for what will benefit our community and planet in the near future. This is one decision where adults and youth must communicate and collaborate to ensure positive action is taken in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Abigail Walton (she/her)

Indigo Moran (they/them)