

MARCH 28TH, 2024

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Re: AGENDA ITEM 4.1

Ana Gascon Marco

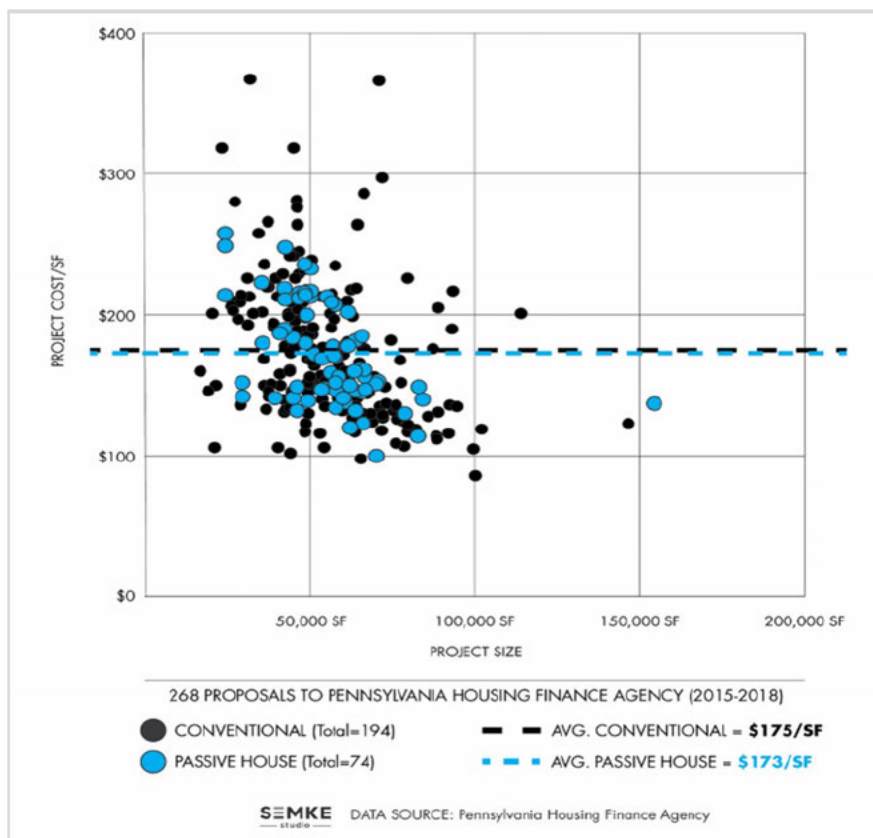
Kitchener, ON

Your Worship and Members of Council,

I am writing to support the **Ageda item 4.1 City of Hamilton resolution: Support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end gas pipeline subsidy**, that will be discussed at the Tuesday March 26th 2024 Council meeting.

As you might be made aware, the Ontario Energy Board (EOB) decision from December 21st, 2023 on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application laid out a thoughtful and safe first step to a cleaner future that will be more resilient, will also lay a path to be less dependant on fossil fuels and will align better with meeting the 2030 deadline to reduce GHG emissions by 51% and reach Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

The tactic from Enbridge and other supporters to challenge the EOB decision, is mostly to infuse fear and confusion among those who see other alternatives to Natural Gas as not viable. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lists Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Methane (CH₄) as two of the seven gases that most contribute to global warming. The largest component in Natural Gas is methane, therefore this gas is and will never be a sustainable choice for Ontarians and Canadians, nor will provide a long term solution.



The question of electrification is often challenged as unachievable, mainly due to reluctance of trying something new and stepping out of our comfort zones. As a professional practicing in the field of sustainable architecture I have extensive knowledge to back the OEB position as the long term solution that our communities need.

The image above is a study from The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), first published in the [2019 NAPHN Policy Resource Guide](#) where there were compared over 250 affordable housing projects. As shown on the chart, there was no correlation between better performing buildings (blue dots) which represent Passive House buildings, and those built to conventional construction (black dots). Passive House buildings require 90% less energy to heat a house than what regular construction requires.

Policy changes is what made the above possible. If buildings were to be built to higher standards like this one, the construction costs could still be maintained, and most importantly this solution could provide true resilience for our communities, and alignment with our climate goals.

I hope the above provides further input to help you all support the original Ontario Energy Board decision as Hamilton has already done, and provide you assurance that electrification and a cleaner future is possible without the price tag often attributed to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Gascon Marco', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ana Gascon Marco
Architect, OAA, MRAIC, PHI
Director of Passive House Design