



Guelph & District Home Builders' Association
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City of Guelph
Mayor Cam Guthrie, City Council
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

November 22, 2024

Re: Guelph November 26, 2024 City Council Meeting – Item: 7.1 Municipal Franchise Agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc. - 2024-416

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Council,

The Guelph & District Home Builders' Association (GDHBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the upcoming decision regarding the Municipal Franchise Agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc.

GDHBA strongly supports signing the agreement in its current form. Altering this longstanding agreement would introduce unnecessary financial burdens on ratepayers, businesses, and homebuyers in our community. This will just become another tax via a gas bill.

Increased operational costs for natural gas servicing will inevitably lead to higher utility bills for families and businesses, including our struggling manufacturing and ag-businesses homed in Guelph. At a time when affordability is already stretched thin, this would act as an additional tax on those trying to enter the housing market or sustain their homes and businesses.

The economic landscape today is fragile. Families and businesses in Guelph are contending with rising costs across the board, from food to energy. Additional expenses tied to municipal adjustments will only exacerbate this strain. This approach risks deepening the housing crisis and diminishing our community's ability to attract and retain economic growth.

We urge you to consider the long-term consequences of these added costs. The housing crisis cannot be solved by layering on financial pressures that hinder affordability. Signing the agreement as written will preserve rate stability, uphold affordability for homeowners and businesses, and sustain economic resilience in Guelph.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Guelph & District Home Builders' Association

Mark Hofstee, GDHBA President