



Feb 29, 2024

Ex: 12.7

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It is urgent and essential that the City of Toronto send a strong message to the government of Ontario in support of the recent OEB decision to stop subsidizing Enbridge pipeline expansion program.

We need to recognize that a transition is underway to electrification of heating systems throughout the province and globally and that this transition needs to be implemented as soon as possible.

Electrification is key to meeting our climate targets.

In 2021 City Council adopted the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which requires that 3 steps be taken:

- 1) stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- 2) transition away from existing fossil fuel use
- 3) fast track the adoption of renewable energy

Toronto is one of 103 cities across the globe who have adopted the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (fossilfuel treaty.org).

In 2021 the City Manager wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau in support of the Fossil Fuel Treaty. It is now time to urge the Premier of Ontario to participate in achieving these three essential steps of the treaty.

Developers may wish to build suburbs as they always have but many municipalities are working hard to change the way housing is built. Municipalities are working hard to keep urban boundaries intact, and to build within these boundaries.

We need housing to be built in cities, and near transit, in order to support the reduction of car dependence, which will lower emissions. And we need this housing to be sustainable, built to the best green standards.

The subsidy that Enbridge currently provides to pipe gas into new homes undercuts the transition that we need developers to make to building homes that are heated and cooled without fossil fuels.

It's no surprise Enbridge does not want to transition. Its business plan is built on expanding sales of fossil gas. Providing that subsidy tilts the playing field toward continued fossil fuel use.

I'm a member of the CAG with the responsibility of working with staff to achieve the climate targets and unfortunately we are not succeeding in keeping on track with our targets. Toronto has good plans but we need to see support for those plans from other levels of government - not obstacles to the transition. We need to support the OEB decision which moves us forward, and not let the province take us backward.

Toronto has spoken up before, joining 38 municipalities in the province to call for an end to construction of gas plants and a phase down and out of fossil gas use in the province.

Now is the moment for Toronto to stand up and push back against the Premier who plans, with Bill 165, to overturn the OEB's decision.

Doug Ford is out of touch with the climate reality and is in need of a wake up call. That call can come from municipalities, and Toronto can be in the lead.

Just this week I heard Dr. Jane Pritchard speak about youth climate anxiety and the importance of youth seeing the government taking action to protect their future. Youth hear the dire news of melting icecaps, rising sea levels, drought and floods, and temperature rising more than 1.5C, the limit that was set as our goal in the Paris COP of 2009. They know we are losing the race and that we need to accelerate action.

Let's show them that government is taking them seriously and is standing up for their future.

Let's support the OEB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn', followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

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