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June 30, 2017

RE: Intervener Status for Manitoba Hydro's General Rate Application

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Executive Director

Tom Thiessen
BOMA Manitoba

Dear BOMA Members,

BOMA Manitoba is working to ensure that our industry's voice is heard by the Public Utilities Board (PUB) as it considers Manitoba Hydro's General Rate Application (GRA).

Alongside the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (Manitoba Division) and the Manitoba Hotel Association, BOMA has engaged the firm of Hill Sokalski Walsh Olson LLP, to act as legal counsel for the General Service Small (GSS) and General Service Medium (GSM) customer classes.

Virtually all of BOMA member buildings fall into either the GSS or GSM Hydro customer class, and **we are pleased that the GSS/GSM customer class has now been granted intervener status** at the PUB hearings. The PUB decision from June 30, 2017, is available on the Advocacy page of our website.

Our concern is that Manitoba Hydro, via its proposed 7.9 per cent annual increases for a five-year period, appears to ignore the economic or business impact on buildings managed by BOMA members, and on customer classes such as GSS and GSM in general. And we, along with the Exporters & Manufacturers group, and the Hotel Association, are doubly concerned about the size and pace of the rate increases.

Although we are mindful of the significant challenges Manitoba Hydro faces – including aging assets and increasing capital costs – **we are not convinced that the proposed increase strikes an appropriate balance between reasonableness, fairness of rates, and the financial health of the utility.** As such, participating in the PUB process is critical.

One of the primary goals identified in BOMA's strategic plan is to advocate for the interests of our members on issues that impact the management of commercial and institutional buildings. Energy pricing and competitiveness are high priority issues for our industry, and will continue to be in the years to come.

At the direction of the BOMA board, our Advocacy & Government Affairs Committee plans to be very active on this, as we strive towards BOMA's vision: *a prosperous and sustainable commercial and institutional buildings industry in Manitoba.*

If you have any questions, please contact me directly by email or phone.

Sincerely,



Tom Thiessen
Executive Director



www.bomamanitoba.ca



BOMA Building
BEST® Environmental
Standards

