

October 28, 2013

Dear Premier Selinger,

What could bring together former NDP Premier Ed Schreyer, former Progressive Conservative Premier Gary Filmon and several former Manitoba Hydro executives?

Concerns your hydro plan could send rates through the roof, that's what.

Your plan has Manitoba Hydro set to spend \$34 billion on a number of projects; that's more than our province's entire provincial debt (\$30 billion.)

Instead of risking significant increases to Manitobans' hydro bills by rushing the proposal, your government needs to immediately call a timeout and conduct a truly non-partisan, independent review. Consider what former premier Gary Filmon had to say -

"I can't understand why the government is afraid to have an objective, independent review of Manitoba Hydro's \$34 billion proposal. It's by far the largest commitment made by a Crown Corporation in the province's history.

- Former PC Premier Gary Filmon

Your party's former leader shares the same concerns -

"Past growth rates and credible projections show a domestic growth rate well within Hydro's present capacity for a few more years. Why rush on a multi-billion dollar scale into a very uncertain export market? And we do have the time. Imagine—just imagine—ending up having to subsidize electricity sales to another province, or another country altogether. Yet this could so easily happen. Indeed, based on present costs and prices, it is almost certain to happen."

- Former NDP Premier Ed Schreyer

Former Manitoba Hydro President and CEO Len Bateman, former Manitoba Hydro Vice-President Will Tishinski and many others have expressed similar concerns.

As you know, if your spending plan for Manitoba Hydro's proposal *does* come in on budget, many families will still have to make cuts to their own household budgets.

That's because your plan includes Hydro rate increases of **4% per year** for the next 20 years. Yet, many families are only seeing their incomes go up by about **2% per year**. Should your plan falter, rates would increase much faster.

Manitobans are not made of money. We can't afford to let your government get this decision wrong. A non-partisan, truly independent review is necessary.

A message from concerned Manitobans