##### August 17, 2018

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Elizabeth Mallett, NAESB Deputy Director

**RE: Update to the Board of Directors – Green Button Update**

In early August, the Retail Markets Quadrant (RMQ) Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Task Force unanimously approved a recommendation for Standards Request R13001 modifying REQ.21 ESPI Model Business Practices. The recommendation is currently out for a thirty-day formal industry comment period that will conclude on September 4, 2018. As you know, ESPI serves as the foundation for the Green Button. By providing an industry-standard XML format for energy usage information and a data exchange protocol, ESPI allows for the automatic exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage information between their designated data custodian, i.e. utility, and an authorized third-party service provider.

Back in May, the Ontario Ministry of Energy posted an update to the Ontarian Environmental and Regulatory Registries related to the *Regulatory Proposal for Province-Wide Implementation of Green Button* (2017). The update announced that the Ontario Ministry of Energy intends to extend the time table for the regulatory proposal that would make it a requirement for Ontarian electric and natural gas utilities to implement Green Button Download My Data and Connect My Data programs. The new timeline allows for additional time for the development of implementation support documents and to consider the feedback received by stakeholders during the comment period. Green Button Download My Data provides the utility customer with the ability to download their energy usage data, and if they so choose, upload the data to a third-party application. Green Button Connect My Data allows utility customers to automate the transfer of their energy usage data to authorized third parties, based on affirmative customer consent and control. In 2012, the Green Button was introduced to Ontario with the support of the Ministry of Energy. *Ontario’s Five-Year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020* committed to expanding Green Button province-wide to let “Ontarians access and share their data on electricity, natural gas and water consumption in a secure, standardized electronic format.” Today, more than half of Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses now have access to their Green Button data.

Over the past year, the Green Button Alliance (GBA) and NAESB have continued to harmonize efforts regarding the Green Button. As mentioned in a 2015 White House Blog post on the Green Button Initiative, the GBA was launched in February of 2015 in coordination with the Commerce Department’s National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of Energy to advance the development of the energy usage data standards. Last year, NAESB and the GBA executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to define the relationship the two organizations will share concerning ESPI and the Green Button Certified Download My Data, Connect My Data, and other future GBA certification programs. Per the MOU, NAESB will attach an open source Apache 2.0 license to the NAESB ESPI XML Schema and the NAESB ESPI Retail Customer XML Schema contained in the ESPI Model Business Practices. Additionally, NAESB will also host the related XML files on its site. In exchange for these actions on NAESB’s part, the MOU commits the GBA to utilize its resources to update the ESPI Model Business Practices and require valid, legal access to ESPI as a condition of certification for any current or future Green Button certification programs.

As a background, in 2011, the Chief Technology Officer of the United States challenged utilities across the country to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to that White House call to action that has led to over 150 utilities and service providers committing to providing more than 60 million U.S. households (altogether 100 million people) with access to their own Green Button energy data. On December 5, 2013, a Presidential Memorandum – *Federal Leadership on Energy Management* directed agencies to update their building-performance and energy-management practices, by encouraging the use of the consensus-based, industry-standard Green Button data access system. With this access to their energy usage information, utility customers attain increased transparency and an awareness of their energy usage patterns in their businesses and homes. Additionally, a growing number of companies are offering products, services, and apps that use Green Button data.