##### August 10, 2017

**TO:** All Interested Parties

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

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

Recently, the Ontario Ministry of Energy initiated conversations with NAESB staff regarding the further expansion of the Green Button in their jurisdiction. The Ontario Ministry of Energy has previously utilized the NAESB REQ.21 –Energy Services Provider Interface Model Business Practices (ESPI) within a reference architecture guide for Green Button implementation in its jurisdiction. ESPI provides an industry-standard XML format and a data exchange protocol for the exchange of a retail customer’s energy usage information between their designated data custodian, i.e. utility, and an authorized third-party service provider. Serving as the critical foundation for the Green Button, ESPI provides best practices, use cases, models, and an XML schema that facilitate the exchange of the energy usage information. In the past years, NAESB has helped facilitate the participation of over seventy-seven Ontarian utility companies in the Ontario Green Button program and looks forward to further coordination efforts with the Ontario Ministry of Energy.

Launched in 2012, the Green Button Initiative is a response to a White House call to action that challenges utilities to provide their customers with easy and secure access to their energy usage data via a “Green Button” on their websites. In Canada, more than half of Ontario-based consumers, totaling 3 million residences and businesses now have access to their Green Button data. Since the Green Button Initiative began in the United States, over 150 utilities and service providers have committed to providing more than 60 million U.S. households with access to their own Green Button energy data.

Throughout 2017, the Green Button Alliance (GBA) and NAESB have continued to harmonize efforts regarding the Green Button. To further its goal of promoting the adoption of the Green Button by utilities, the GBA has launched the Green Button Download My Data Testing and Certification Program. As you know, ESPI stands as the critical foundation for the Green Button and, as such, all GBA Green Button Certification candidates who are not NAESB members are required to purchase the standard. As the RMQ moves forward to consider modifications to ESPI, the Green Button Alliance has offered the expertise of its subject matter experts to review, modify, and update the ESPI standards.