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Jack and JoAnn Grace 1557 Middleton Road Hudson, Ohio 44236

Re: American Transmission Systems, Inc. Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Grace:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the proposed American Transmission Systems, Inc. / Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project. As with the consideration of all transmission projects, local and surrounding businesses, residents, municipalities and officials are invited to discuss the present and long-term economical and environmental feasibility of such projects. The response we receive from these entities convey an interest in environmental, ecological and social implications associated with the proposed transmission line.

On September 28, 2007, American Transmission Systems, Inc. submitted an application for the project before the Ohio Power Siting Board. At this time, no public hearings are scheduled. However, once our staff review of the application is complete, the applicant is required to publish appropriate notice of all hearings in local newspapers of general circulation in the area.

As we appreciate all input into the siting process, your document will be shared with members of the Board and placed in the official docket for the case. Further, should you wish to view activity involving this application, please visit our web site at www.OPSB.ohio.gov. Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Very truly yours.

Klaus Las bock, Chief, **Ohio Power Siting Board** 

Date Processed

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February 14, 2008

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Thursday, February 07, 2008

Representative John P. Hagan Ohio House of Representatives 77 South High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Subject: Geauga County Transmission Line Project

## Dear Mr. Hagan:

By this letter, we hereby state for the record our objection, in the strongest possible terms, to the Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project, PUCO case number 07-171-EL-BTX, as proposed by FirstEnergy Corporation and as currently under review by the Ohio Power Sitting Board. We are asking for your assistance in securing workable modifications to the project to overcome the devastating effects that it would have on 87 properties.

Recently we read with great interest an article in the local Farm and Dairy newspaper quoting Mike Youshak relative to the subject project.

We've known Mike Youshak for over 20 years, having purchased hay for our Clydesdale horses, grown on their magnificent farm. You should know that Mike along with several other affected families provide essential farm goods for us and others, so we may continue with events such as parades, hayrides, school programs and other important traditions. Of course these families also provide farm products that are important to the food chain for all of us.

We all realize that it requires many things to make viable communities and it isn't just about progress, it is about progress that benefits everyone without harming or affecting others. We ask that you consider the devastating effects the proposed line will have on these beautiful and productive parcels in eastern Geauga County, think about how you would react if you were a property owner in this wonderful area. These properties are all part of a perfect environment of rural traditions and unspoiled beauty. Damage will be severe and unrecoverable due to soil compaction and destruction of natural drainage patterns.

When you review this project, please understand that there are workable alternative locations for the proposed transmission line. Pre-existing civil corridors, such as highway and rail corridors exist that could and should be used for the proposed transmission line rather than creation of a new corridor through virgin land. State Route 11, only 15 miles east of the proposed corridor, is an ideal pre-existing civil corridor and a "made to order" location for the proposed transmission line. The route of the previously engineered and once approved Rachel transmission line along the B&O railroad grade is another viable pre-existing civil corridor. We're confident that the engineering talent exists within FirstEnergy to utilize these preferred, pre-existing civil corridors for the new transmission line.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our argument overwhelmingly against the Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project as proposed by FirstEnergy. We look forward to your support of an outcome from the Ohio Power Sitting Board process that favors the future of these families, their land, their lifestyles and the cherished unspoiled rural paradise that is Thompson, Montville and Huntsburg townships.

Jack Maci John Grace

Jack and JoAnn Grace 1557 Middleton Road Hudson, Ohio 44236