8/24/08

The Honorable Ted Strickland Governor of Ohio 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6108

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Honorable Governor Strickland:

As a runner, bicyclist, and outdoor enthusiast, I am opposed to the proposed route of 138kV electrical transmission lines through the City of Chardon and along the Maple Highlands Bike Trail. The Trail serves multitudes of people and is a wonderful lineal park through the country. It should not be considered as a viable option for the proposed transmission lines.

Of the three options, the Maple Highlands Trail/Chardon Route is the least desirable for the following reasons-

- A high voltage transmission line through the City of Chardon is **not appropriate** due to the density of residential, commercial, and industrial uses.
- The rights of all residents to use public lands and parks should take precedence over the rights of a few private property owners who will be compensated for the use of their land.
- A policy favoring utility facilities, including high voltage transmission lines through parks and municipalities with more people and intense land uses, is a flawed policy.
- The "not in my backyard" philosophy of private land owners in eastern Geauga County should not override the better public policy of locating the transmission lines in an area which has the smallest impact on the fewest people.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter to the citizens of Chardon and everyone in the community that enjoy the use of the Maple Highlands Trail.

Best regards.

Randal B. Sharpe

CC: Hon. Alan R. Schriber, Chairman PUCO

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