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October 24, 2008

Jody Tortora 5118 Market Avenue N Canton, OH 44714

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Office of Chairman P.U.C.O.

Chairman Alan Schriber Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Case Numbers: 08-917-EL-SSO, 08-918-EL-SSO

Chairman Schriber:

I am writing you to express my opposition to American Electric Power – Ohio's (AEP-Ohio) proposed electricity rate increase of 51% over three years. I currently have AEP as my home utility provider. I also work for a local manufacturing company, Union Metal Corporation, who provides 356 family sustaining jobs in Ohio. AEP's current proposal will decrease my company's competitiveness and put Ohio's economy in jeopardy.

Manufacturers exist in a global marketplace; any unjustified increase in our costs puts unnecessary burdens on Union Metal Corporation's ability to compete. Manufacturers are facing the same volatility in markets and commodity prices that AEP-Ohio is; however, manufacturers do not enjoy the ability foist price increases upon our customers. Allowing AEP-Ohio to increase rates by 15% annually over three years resulting in a compound, minimum increase of 51% will result in significant pain for those of us who must compete in the real world. AEP-Ohio's proposed rate increase will have a negative effect on my company's ability to remain competitive in Ohio.

AEP-Ohio's prices should be cost based providing them with a fair, just, and reasonable price. Since AEP-Ohio's proposal does not meet this basic test it should be denied.

Sincerely,

Jody Tortora

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