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Elida, Ohio 45807
November 12, 2008

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PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Sirs or Madam:

I am writing in regards to American Electric Power's request to increase our electric rates 15% a year for the next three years (case 08-917-EL-SSO). This proposed increase would be an astronomical amount for each household to incur as well as the businesses and schools in our community. With the economy in dire straights, endorsing such an increase will further the decline of our economy in Ohio.

We recently had an increase from Dominion East Ohio and my last bill was almost triple the amount that my bill was the month before. Our phone company (Embarq) has also asked for increased rates and now American Electric Power. With winter coming and everyone needing our utilities to keep warm and do household chores, it would hurt most households if an increase was approved. Many young people who live on their own would be thrown into a poverty category with the increase and possibly need assistance. Many young families are barely making it in our area and any more expense could cause them to file bankruptsy. The schools recently passed levies which will already yield an increase in property taxes for our entire community, but they will need even more money from property owners if American Electric Power increases their rates. This will impact many homeowners in a grave way.

Local businesses are already closing and leaving our area, and by increasing their operating costs, it may cause more businesses to close. Higher costs will extremely hurt the base of our economy in Ohio and cause undo hardship on many people. It could even cost many people their jobs.
Since there is a monopoly on all of our utilities in this area of Ohio, please consider the average family in Ohio and then say, **"No"** to any more rate increases at this time. We have no choice but to buy from these local companies, even though other suppliers are mentioned. Switching to another company has never saved us a dime and is often more expensive than if we had stayed with the local company. It is like they punish us for trying to beat their prices, so they make sure that no one is lower than them after they add on their **surcharges**.
There is a lot at stake here, that will be negatively impacted by our utility companies's rate increases. Myself, my neighbors, and my community would appreciate your declining American Electric Power's request for an increase at this time and any time in the near future.

Thank you,

Carol Jones

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