

FILE



OHIO SENATE
 SENATE BUILDING
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
 (614) 466-8076
 SD20@senate.state.oh.us

COMMITTEES:
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 Natural Resources
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SENATOR JIMMY STEWART
 20TH DISTRICT

Dr. Alan Schriber, Chairman
 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
 180 East Broad Street, 12th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Schriber,

Several constituencies in my Ohio Senate district have raised concerns to me about the level of increases authorized by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) in American Electric Power's (AEP) electric security plan case. As you know, I am proud to represent a significant portion of Southeast Ohio and all of my constituents receive service from AEP or an electric cooperative.

It is my understanding the decision issued by the PUCO was supposed to limit the total bill increases AEP could receive to between 6 and 8 percent per year. However, the feedback I am receiving indicates that people are anticipating much greater increases in their bills. For instance, industrial customers in my district inform me they expect bill increases well into double digits, sometimes more than double the percentage increases authorized by the PUCO. Residential customers do not expect to fare any better with expected increases well over the PUCO's stated caps.

I write to respectfully request an explanation as to how and why customers' bills are being increased by much greater percentages than that contained in the PUCO's decision. If the PUCO meant to hold AEP to 6 to 8 percent increases, then why did the PUCO approve new rates for AEP that produce such a different (and harmful) result? A written response from the PUCO would be much appreciated.

The PUCO should rectify this problem and ensure that customers will pay no more than is absolutely necessary, and certainly no more than the percentage listed in the PUCO's decision. My district is being hit especially hard by this economic downturn and my constituents cannot shoulder the increases they expect in their next electric bills.

I respectfully request that this letter be docketed.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Stewart

Jimmy Stewart
 State Senator
 20th Senate District

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 PUCO

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