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 PUCO

**Deborah Newcomb**  
**State Representative, 99<sup>th</sup> House District**

*Committees: Aging and Disability Services, Chair; Agriculture & Natural Resources; Health, Public Utilities*

February 26, 2010

Chairman Alan R. Schriber  
 The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
 180 E. Broad St.  
 Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Schriber:

Please be advised that I support the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and the decision of the PUCO regarding the open filing by First Energy, Case No. 10-176-EL-ATA, to alter residential all-electric rates and payment arrangements pending a permanent resolution for protecting residential customers.

As a result of extensive conversations, correspondence and town hall meetings with constituents, issues were raised by consumers that First Energy aggressively promoted the construction, conversion and purchase of all-electric homes. During this testimony many consumers indicated that they were promised, if not in writing than verbally and through marketing efforts, that all-electric home discounts were permanent discounts and many believed would last as they owned their homes.

Also of great concern is that First Energy passed on the cost of this "discount" program to other consumers both residential and commercial. If this statement is indeed factual, FirstEnergy customers who did not own all-electric homes should not be burdened to finance this type of incentive package. Therefore, I respectfully request that the all-electric rate discount be reinstated, and that it will be done in a manner where associated costs are not passed on to other consumers as it pertains to the motion filed by OCC. Again as heard in testimony, FirstEnergy promised these rates to consumers and First Energy must find a way to uphold that promise without added expense to other customers.

In addition, copies of complaint forms collected from constituents at town hall meetings held in Ashtabula County on Thursday, February 18, 2010 have been included with this letter.

My office received hundreds of calls, e-mails and written letters from constituents concerning the First Energy rate increase and these forms and meetings clearly demonstrate the negative impact and concerns of our constituents and the necessity of the reinstatement of the discount program immediately.

In closing, I support the motion of the OCC against Case No. 10-176-EL-ATA, but also request the cost of the discount program not be passed on to other customers of FirstEnergy. Thank you for your careful consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**DEBORAH NEWCOMB**  
 State Representative  
 99<sup>th</sup> House District

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