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APR 14 2010

REGISTRATION AND ACCOUNTS SECTION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

10 April 2010

Subject: Discounts to All-Electric homes

Dear PUCO Person,

Discounts to all-electric homes have become a hot topic recently. I personally have had an interest in this topic for the last 35 years. I always thought it encouraged inefficient energy use. Now I feel I am going to be penalized for acting wisely and refusing to build an all-electric home.

The electric companies duped people who built such homes. I remember designing homes with my father and seeking bids for building. The electric company sent a representative to try to convince us to go all-electric. They claimed that if the home were insulated to their standards and a discount applied, electric homes would be more competitive than gas. We asked them if they could compete with the same amount of insulation. Their answer was no, not even with the discount.

How can electric possibly heat more efficiently than gas? Electric generating plants are 55% thermally efficient at best; there is substantial loss in delivery systems; transformers eat up thermal energy. Best case scenario, electric heat is 48% overall thermal efficiency vs. 80% for the worst gas furnaces ever built. To make matters worse, a substantial amount of electricity is generated in gas-fired plants.

So being engineers and logical people, we insulated to the electric standards, installed gas furnace and water heater, and saved a lot of money over the years on energy costs had we opted for electric, even with the discount. We saw that the electric option was something too good to be true. And of course, if it is too good to be true, it can't be true.

For some reason, I did not see need to petition the government for rendition of this terrible electric sales practice. Looking back, I can now equate it to the sale of "snake oil" which led to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration. The electric companies never should have been allowed to dupe people, but alas, it is too late.

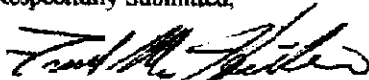
So now I see proposals to restore the discounts permanently. So these buildings get cheap electricity for life. This means clear thinkers like me will have to pay increased rates to subsidize these discounts. I feel I am being penalized for saving energy.

I realize, since these people were duped, the government should step in and try to make fair restitution. I just don't want to have to pay for this with rate increases or taxes. To those who were duped, sorry. Get over it and switch to gas. To help pay for this problem I propose the following:

1. Electric companies involved must not raise rates on non-discount customers as a result of this fiasco.
2. Discounts should be restored for a period not more than five years.
3. Developers and builders who pushed all-electric homes should pay a third the cost of converting to gas or other means of heating. They knew this was wrong and just wanted to pocket incentives from electric companies. Let them pay for their greed.
4. Electric companies should pay a third the cost of conversion in point three for same reasons.
5. Home-owners should pay the final third for conversion, or, at their discretion, opt-out of such conversion and begin paying full rates after year five.
6. Never allow these discounts to be offered again.

Please do not make me pay for others' greed.

Respectfully Submitted,



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