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RECEIVED-BOOKETING DIV

PLUM BROOK ESTATES CONDOMINIUM OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

4310 WOODRIDGE DRIVE, SANDUSKY, OH 44870

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PUCO

To: The OHIO Public Utilities Commission [PUCO], Chairman: Alan Schriber

From: The Plum Brook Estates Condo Assn Board of Directors
[Harold Butcher, John Straziuso, Keith Stairhoff, Greg Siverd, Joyce Leimbach]

Date: November 2, 2010

RE: PUCO Case 10- 0176 EL ATA

The position of the Plum Brook Condo Assn Board of directors with regard to the electric rate for residents who constructed or purchased all-electric homes remains: *the current discounted rate or a similar discounted electric rate needs to be retained for Northern Ohio residents.* Plum Brook Estates with 182 residential units is just one of the all-electric residential communities in Erie County. As stated in testimony, Chairman Schriber and the representatives for the PUCO serve at the appointment of the Governor—PUCO's first responsibility/obligation is to serve in the best interest of Ohio's residents.

At the October 25th hearing conducted in Sandusky, repeated testimony clearly presented the fact that residents have been told the many advantages of an all-electric home – including an implication that such residents will receive a discounted rate for choosing all electric over gas installations. The majority of this group CANNOT install alternative heat/cooling services, either because gas is not available, their home construction will not allow for such an installation, and/or such installations would be cost-prohibitive.

Since the mid-'70's realtors, contractors, and the population who have all-electric residences have been told repeatedly the conveniences/benefits of an all-electric home with the concluding statement 'the electric company grants all-electric homes a discounted rate'. Whether that is a written contract or an implied contract never-the-less Ohio's residents have had reason to believe the electric company would honor its word with the continuation of a discounted rate – being transferred to the new home owner when the deed transferred hands. NOW after 30 plus years of living with this belief, the residents learn that next spring this discount may no longer be honored. It appears no written contract has been presented, however, as many residents testified, they remember the marketing program of the then named company Ohio Edison used to promote all-electric installations, i.e., newspaper ads, radio ads, visits by company representatives, and promotions for insulation and hot-water tank installations, use of load meters, and demand meters to control usage/costs for residents—all promoted by the electric company.

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Now, many of those people are living on fixed incomes with declining financial resources and health conditions, with electric bills that are becoming cost-prohibitive. In addition to the increasing rates, their property values are declining, making it more difficult to sell an all-electric home.

As stated in the testimony of Ohio's Representative to the ninth district, the honorable Marcy Kaptur – a rate increase not only becomes an impediment to economic growth, residents chose the all-electric construction installations in good faith, relinquishing options to alternative energy. Rep Kaptur also discussed the billions of dollars the merger with Allegheny Power will glean with the proposed rate increase. It appears there is little concern for the individual resident, let alone the community/schools that will lose tax revenue—with residents having less spending power.

These residents have become victims of broken promises – implied or written—it is a matter of trust; the electric company seems to be running rough shod over its customers. As one resident testified – there may not be written contracts on record, but the 30 plus years of billing records available to PUCO surely represent a 'smoldering gun' that validates the discount given to all-electric residents—one that needs to be continued to ensure that stability of this population. Customers' billing records confirm what residents were told—constructing an all electric residents would be an ongoing advantage. Jude Theibert's concluding statement makes sense: "the all-electric residents should be granted a rate discount until that said property is taken off Ohio's tax records".

The state of OHIO is a major player in this concern – Ohio's leadership which includes Governor Strickland and Ohio's Senators and Representatives who represent the Northern Ohio Districts, as well as the PUCO have an obligation to Ohio residents to retain a discounted electric rate to those who have been trusting and built homes with all-electric installations with the belief that the electric rate would remain affordable. We, the Board of Directors for the Plum Brook Estates Condo Association, thank you for taking time to consider input from us and other concerned citizens that you represent.

cc: Governor Strickland
Rep Kaptur
Sen Brown
Rep Latta
Rep Murray
Rep Boose
Sen Wagoner