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First Energy's Promised Permanent Discounts for All-Electric Homes/Apartments

Case NO: 10-176

My name is Daniel Tracht and I own the Bardshar Apartments in Huron Township, Ohio. Bardshar Apartments consists of 26 townhouses—2 bedroom, all-electric apartments. My office and living quarters are located on this site also.

My father was an architect and contractor. He paid to extend the natural gas line from Camp Road so he had alternative fuel sources to develop a condominium complex and a single family home subdivision.

We had to make some concessions to qualify for any discounted electric rate. For instance:

- Tearing out the existing gas line to my living quarters.
- Not tapping into the gas line at the street and running 26 lines into each apartment (which would have been much easier since we didn't have parking lots, sidewalks, or a concrete slab to bore through.)
- My parents not exercising the tap rebates Columbia Gas would have paid for all the apartments located here.

As I look back, Ohio Edison did everything possible to create a monopoly. If the PUCO decides to grant FirstEnergy their proposed rate increase, my business will be damaged to the point of having to drop the rents to remain competitive with the gas-heated apartments in the area.

I've attended all the seminars that our local chapter of Serving Our Seniors has offered. I've read as many articles from people like Rep. Dennis Kucinich and Plain Dealer reporter John Funk as humanly possible. These web links will grant you access to their thoughts:

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/firstenergy_gave_builders_cash.html

http://search.cleveland.com/dennis+kucinich+calls+for+assistance+in+all-elec?date_range=all

Former Employee (FirstEnergy) written testimony (open the link below—Page 58):

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPDF/A1001001A10L14B10731C87637.pdf>

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It seems hard for me to believe that the PUCO would consider allowing a business that created monopolistic conditions and can afford to consistently pay their stockholders a dividend (meaning FirstEnergy makes at the very least a profit equal to the dividend payment) at the expense of a business that provides housing to hard-working, middle class citizens.

Twenty years ago I could call a local FirstEnergy representative if I had any questions. Today, if I had any questions, the FirstEnergy representative is in Akron. It is highly unlikely they can even provide an answer of where my business is located. The quality of service is very erratic. My automatic transfers (when a tenant moves) have been mismanaged five times in the last 2 years. Three years ago I did encounter one very knowledgeable representative. When I called her six months later, I could not locate her. To say the least, I've been very disappointed with FirstEnergy. After all, I consider myself to be a salesperson of FirstEnergy's. Ninety percent of my potential tenants ask about that apartment's heating source.

Thank you for reading this. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Tracht
Owner, Bardshar Apartments
419-433-7229
Bardshar@momstimesavior.com