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W<sup>m</sup> J. Lhota  
President/CEO

July 12, 2011

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Division  
180 E. Broad Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Subject: PUCO Case No. 08-1344-GA-EXM In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc  
for Approval of a General – Exemption of Certain Gas Commodity Sales Services or Ancillary  
Services

Chairman Snitchler and Commissioners Centolella, Lesser, Porter and Roberto:

I am President/CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) created pursuant to Ohio law, serving Franklin County and parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, and Union Counties. COTA provides public transit service with over 60,000 boardings per day and demand responsive service to the disabled community with over 780 boardings per day. I urge you to rule in favor of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. in its request to transition from a wholesale auction to a retail auction for procurement of default commodity supply for customers who are not participating in Columbia's Choice Program.

Allowing the proposed retail auction process (standard choice offer structure) in the area served by Columbia will provide Columbia an option in its service area consistent with procedures currently allowed in those parts of Ohio served by Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio and Dominion East Ohio. In other areas of the state, the retail auction process (and it accompanying retail tax structure) has not resulted in an apparent disadvantage for consumers. Additionally, RTAs in those areas of the state have benefited from the change. An appreciable revenue benefit available to RTAs in those other areas of the state would also be available to COTA.

I believe that if it is allowed to proceed, the proposed retail auction process (standard choice offer structure), approved in 2009, will provide a situation that is fair for everyone involved - commodity providers, distributors, consumers, RTAs and other political subdivisions.

Thank you for considering our letter as you hear evidence in this matter.

Sincerely,

W<sup>m</sup> J. Lhota  
President/CEO

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