

# COAD

## Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development

September 13, 2011

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
ATTN: Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PUCO

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RE: Case No. 11-5028-GA-UNC, 11-5029-GA-AAM

The Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) expresses its support for the Demand Side Management programs proposed by Columbia Gas of Ohio in the above case numbers. COAD has been a long time partner of Columbia Gas in their WarmChoice program and has seen first-hand the positive impact of Columbia's energy conservation programs. Columbia's programs have provided and will continue to provide customers with substantial energy conservation benefits such as reduced natural gas bills as a result of participating in the proposed programs. The programs have the potential to save customers millions of dollars in energy costs over the life of the energy conservation measures.

In addition to lower bills, these programs also:

- Create/retain jobs for Ohioans
- Invest in products and services offered by Ohio-based businesses
- Enhance conservation as an energy resource in Ohio
- Improve the safety, health, durability, comfort and affordability of customers' homes
- Reduce the growth of arrearages for Percentage of Income Payment Plan customers
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Without Columbia's programs, many of our customers would have a difficult time heating their homes affordably. With potential funding reductions in federal weatherization and heating assistance programs likely, we urge the PUCO to approve Columbia's DSM programs so that customers can continue to enjoy the many benefits created through energy efficiency programs.

Sincerely,



Keith Eric Pitts

Director, Community Development Division

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