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Nov. 4, 2011

**Todd A. Snitchler**  
**Chairman**  
**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**  
**180 E. Broad St.**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Chairman Snitchler:**

Progress Alliance, the public-private economic development organization serving Jefferson County, is proud to add its support to the growing number of communities, organizations and individuals speaking out in favor of the AEP Ohio ESP Settlement Plan.

It is my understanding that AEP Ohio's settlement agreement does not cap shopping or the ability for customers to shop for a competitive retail electricity supplier, either through community aggregation or directly with a competitive retail electric supply (CRES) provider. The capability to shop has existed long before AEP introduced this Electrical Security Plan (ESP) and is enhanced through the settlement.

AEP Ohio has been a strong community partner and works to help provide job growth and business retention in our community. AEP Ohio has been and continues to be a strong supporter of Progress Alliance's efforts in Jefferson County. With this settlement plan, AEP Ohio will contribute to the state's economic development efforts through the AEP Ohio Growth Fund. The fund is designed to significantly expand AEP Ohio's ongoing support of economic development to help attract new investment and associated job growth across our state.

The AEP Ohio's settlement agreement is a compromise that provides clarity and direction for the company and its customers, while providing much needed certainty around critical public policy. Overall, it is a plan that enhances retail shopping, promotes economic development, asset investment and an orderly transition to fully market-based generation rates.

I thank you in advance for adding these sentiments to the docket.

Sincerely,

**Ed Looman**  
**Executive Director**  
**Progress Alliance**  
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