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United Way of the
Upper Ohio Valley, Inc.

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May 25, 2012

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Snitchler,

The purpose of this letter is to indicate my support to the number of organizations/individuals supporting the AEP modified Electric Security Plan (ESP).

AEP of Ohio has been a strong community partner with our United Way and works to help provide job growth and business retention within our various communities. Through their various United Way company campaigns, AEP of Ohio has been instrumental in assisting our agencies respond to the needs of others within our area. They also provide us with numerous volunteers for our annual "Day of Caring" that enables our agencies to complete certain needed tasks. They have even provided our United Way with various grants to respond to the housing and health care needs that exist in Belmont and Monroe Counties. Their participation in these efforts and others are essential in enabling us to provide needed community services. More importantly, AEP provides employment for hundreds of individuals within our area—which is desperately needed and keeps our community strong.

From what I understand, the recent ESP is a compromise that provides clarity and direction for the company and its customers, while providing much needed certainty around critical public policy issues. My understanding is that it is a plan that enhances retail shopping, promotes economic development, asset investment and an orderly transition to fully market-based generation rates.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Smoulder".

George Smoulder
Executive Director
United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley



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