



dependents that allows them to advance their trade skills or their academic or educational goals, which will assist them in their future endeavors.

We are opposed to the rate increases that have been approved, as well as the pending capacity and rate case matters, which are subject for consideration by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). It has been, is and continues to be a material financial impact to small and mid-size businesses, which (A) are unable to pass these increases on due to the competitive challenges of global market conditions to retain customers, and (B) other operational increases we have been subject to, but not limited to, such as group medical insurance, Workman's Comp. rates, regulatory and environmental matters, as well as in – out bound freight costs. The retroactive AEP – rate increases that impacted our Company through 2011, can serve as a testimonial of the challenges we are confronted with in our operations, which ostensibly could mirror many other operations within the State of Ohio.

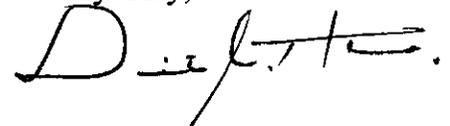
As a three (3) shift operation, our monthly electric bill was around \$37,000.00. As a two (2) shift operation from April 25, 2011, through year-end 2011, our monthly electric bill was close to \$54,000.00. On a comparative basis, with less billable production, our cost basis is higher. Notwithstanding, we are looking at net dollars that on an annualized basis translates to a \$204,000.00 increase. A staggering amount for a company of our size.

For our state to retain and to create jobs, and equally to compete in a competitive global market environment, we are simply choking off abilities for small and mid-size companies to exist or to venture by taking more or added risks to expand their operations. Statistical comparison clearly supports that these are the companies that always have created and accounted for the largest employment segment percentage of jobs for our country.

We appeal that logic should prevail for consideration to unconditionally reject the within stated capacity and rate cases.

Thank you.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dieter E. Heren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dieter E Heren,  
C.E.O.

cc: Kevin Schmidt – OMA