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- Company: FirstEnergy
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COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

I am writing to respond to the public hearing that PUCO will hold this Tuesday, June 12th, about the FirstEnergy ESP. I will not be able to attend, but I do want to voice my thoughts on the plan. I think that FirstEnergy can do more with producing energy from wind turbines in Ohio.

An article in the paper brought to my attention to upgrades that FirstEnergy needs to install into

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their previously decommissioned coal plants in Ohio. These upgrades will allegedly cost \$1 billion. As customers of FirstEnergy, my family can expect electricity rates to increase to cover the costs. I can sympathize with the demand to keep these plants operating; however, I think that our energy demands need to be generated by other sources such as the wind. When prices rise, I expect a better product. The problem is that the product is the same: coal-powered electricity. The ramifications of greenhouse gases and coal byproducts entail climate change, acid rain, and pulmonary health disorders.

Dr. Wenhong Li from Duke University recently uncovered a possible culprit to climate change, a pressure system called the North Atlantic Subtropical High. This natural phenomenon forms every summer and pumps heat and humidity from Bermuda up the North American coastline. In the past forty years, this system has moved more closely to the southeast coast of the U.S. She was able to make a correlation between the proximity of the NASH to U.S. soil and the extreme wet or dry seasons the Southeast has been experiencing. After collecting data from natural pressure systems, Dr. Li found that natural systems did not cause the NASH's shift in location. Rather, greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide were found to be feeding this pressure system, thus accounting for the erratic behavior of climate patterns in the western hemisphere. I was a skeptic of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming and climate change until I read this article. I hope you will take this into consideration when drawing up the ESP with FirstEnergy.

I propose a stronger commitment to renewable and sustainable energy in FirstEnergy's plan. If prices are to increase, I want to see an improvement in the product. Particularly, the ESP grants auto manufacturing facilities that use more than 45 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity annually at a single site will be eligible to receive discounted rates on additional kWh usage. I think that this discount should only be granted if the facilities purchase or provide their own wind or solar energy. Another solution would be to construct solar panels or wind turbines on the sites of these automotive facilities to help mitigate their dependence on the grid. I do not mean to kill business, as I understand that industry is constantly targeted with regulations and mandates from the EPA and other sources. However, I do think that steps need to be taken towards a greener future. Simply upgrading old coal plants is not sufficient. Please consider my suggestions and know that FirstEnergy has the power to build a better world. Thank you for your time. Good luck.