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RECEIVED-DOCKETING
2012 JUL -6 AM 10:20
PUCO

Todd A. Snitchler
Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Snitchler,

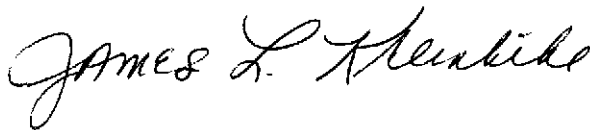
RE: AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER (AEP) PROPOSED PRICE FOR CAPACITY CASE 10-2929

I am writing to inform you of my concern regarding the new price for capacity proposed by AEP. The proposal will directly affect our community and I ask you to do everything in your power to ensure that current electric prices do not increase. I understand it is your responsibility and the commission's mission to ensure access to adequate utility services at fair prices and to promote competition in the energy markets in Ohio. In my opinion, the proposed increase in capacity charges contradicts this mission.

As a consumer of energy, I will be directly affected by the newly proposed price for capacity. If the proposed increase in capacity cost is approved, my electric supplier will be forced to increase my electricity costs. Please don't put the interest of AEP ahead of the interest of the residential customers of the State of Ohio.

Please take my view as a customer of a competitive service provider and a current citizen of the State of Ohio into consideration when making your decision in this matter.

Sincerely,



Concerned Energy Consumer of Ohio

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Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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Concerned Energy Consumer of Ohio

FILE

COLUMBUS
PARTNERSHIP150 South Front St
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215T (614) 225.0500
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www.columbuspartnership.com

June 28, 2012

Mr. Todd Snitchler
Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

On behalf of the 43 member companies of the Columbus Partnership including our Chairman Leslie H. Wexner, Vice Chairman John F. Wolfe, Secretary Alex Shumate, Esq., and our Treasurer Stephen S. Rasmussen, we are committed to creating a strong and vibrant region that is attractive to new industry and which helps our existing businesses flourish.

As a group focused on economic development, we are philosophically aligned with efforts that support stability and predictability in our regulatory climate. We believe that an environment that fosters strong and healthy competition among its businesses is good for economic development, and it allows the free-market system to operate in the way it was intended. Nothing better articulates the full sentiments of our entire organization relative to the electricity rate-case decision more clearly than the attached editorial which appeared in this past Sunday's edition of the *Columbus Dispatch*.

As I stated in my April 30, 2012, testimony before the commission, building and sustaining a reputation as a business-friendly environment is paramount in economic development. Your decision has far-reaching ramifications on the future of our state's economic growth by directly impacting how others perceive Ohio as a place to conduct their business. What's more, AEP has been a vital part of the corporate landscape in Columbus for almost 30 years, providing income and corporate tax revenue, generating incredible spending power by its employee base, and significantly investing in all of the communities throughout the state where it conducts business. Preserving Ohio's reputation and keeping AEP financially healthy and headquartered in Ohio should be a priority for the Commission as it formulates its decision.

As the July 2 decision approaches, all eyes are on the state. I strongly urge you to forge a reasoned transition to a competitive-market system in Ohio and eagerly await your decision.

I am happy to speak with you directly and can be reached at 614.225.6909 at any time.

Respectfully,



Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO

ARF/tt

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Steven J. Allen, MD
CEO ★ Nationwide Children's Hospital

George S. Barrett
Chairman and CEO ★ Cardinal Health

John J. Bishop
Chairman and CEO ★ The Motorists Insurance Group

David P. Blom
President and CEO ★ OhioHealth

Joseph Chlapaty
Chairman, President and CEO ★ Advanced Drainage Systems

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Chairman ★ Nicklaus Companies

Jack W. Nicklaus, II (Chairman ★ Memorial Tournament)
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President and CEO ★ Grange Insurance

Leslie H. Wexner
Chairman and CEO ★ Limited Brands

Abigail S. Wexner
Chair ★ Nationwide Children's Hospital

John F. Wolfe
Chairman and CEO ★ The Dispatch Printing Company

A powerful decision

An upcoming PUCO ruling will have major consequences

The Columbus Dispatch

Sunday June 24, 2012 7:01 AM

On July 2, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is expected to announce its decision on an electricity-rate case, the ramifications of which extend far beyond utility companies. The commission has one chance to get this right. Wall Street is watching.

In December, the PUCO approved a rate plan that would help American Electric Power of Ohio transition smoothly to a competitive-market system within three years. Then in February, after an outcry by some parties about higher rates, the PUCO simply revoked the plan, tossing untold hours of work and negotiation and essentially pulling the rug out from under AEP, which had used those approved rates to plan for years to come.

Worse, the story it told to Wall Street investors was that Ohio has an unpredictable and flighty regulatory climate — not a safe place to put your money.

This is the commission's chance to tell a better, more reassuring story about Ohio. It can show the nation's financial analysts that the state is committed to stability and predictability and to setting the stage for a free market that works as it should.

Competition can't be a reality without strong, healthy competitors that can knock themselves out to win customers by giving them the best price.

Other electric companies, specifically Akron-based FirstEnergy, have had a long time to get ready for a deregulated system, including getting permission to recoup billions from customers to help pay for its nuclear-power plants. Eight years ago, the PUCO let that company start moving toward competition because rates in northern Ohio were much higher than the market price. But the PUCO held AEP's prices low, because AEP was able to charge lower-than-market rates and that was a better deal for central and southern Ohio consumers. This was OK for AEP's health because its cost of producing power, using plentiful coal, was low, and its power plants were paid off and doing well.

Then the economic downturn sharply dropped the wholesale price of electricity. Meanwhile, federal environmental regulation has forced AEP to start upgrading plants and moving away from coal.

In opposing AEP's request before the PUCO, FirstEnergy is doing what any smart company would do. It sees an opportunity to use the regulatory system to weaken a competitor. It is in the state's interest, in preparing for a deregulated market, to make sure that doesn't happen.

The fate of AEP is inextricably intertwined with that of its communities, which are located in 61 of Ohio's 88 counties. AEP Ohio provides service to about 1.5 million customers in Ohio; about 1.3 million of them are residential, with 178,650 business customers and 10,635 industrial customers. The company employs 6,229 Ohioans.

It is a vitally important corporate citizen of Columbus and of every other town in which it is based. For 2011, the company paid \$123 million in state taxes and \$173 million to local communities. It bought \$2.9 billion in goods and services for the year from other Ohio companies, and gave \$18.8 million to various charitable and economic-development causes.

And that's just the company; consider the spending power of its thousands of employees.

In this case, the PUCO is deciding a whole lot more than dollars and cents on a monthly bill.

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Dispatch editorials express the view of the *Dispatch* editorial board, which is made up of the publisher, the president of *The Dispatch*, the editor and the editorial-writing staff. As is the traditional newspaper practice, the editorials are unsigned and intended to be seen as the voice of the newspaper. Comments and questions should be directed to the editorial page editor.