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Council of Smaller Enterprises

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November 9, 2012

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Case No. 12-1842-GA-EXM
In the matter of the Joint Motion to Modify the June 18, 2008 Opinion and Order in Case No. 07-1224-GA-EXM

Dear Chairman Snitchler and Commissioners Lesser, Porter, Roberto and Slaby:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Council of Smaller Enterprises ("COSE") a support organization for small businesses located in Northeast Ohio. COSE, on behalf of its 14,000 members, advocates on behalf of small businesses policies being discussed in the Congress, at the General Assembly, and in regulatory agencies as to matters that impact the small business community. Many of COSE's members are retail customers of the Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. More than seven years ago, Dominion East Ohio began a process of deregulating its natural gas service to retail customers. Thus far, the deregulation steps that have been taken by Dominion East Ohio have resulted in more competitive prices for natural gas commodities, a greater number of independent suppliers, and more diverse natural gas programs and products. Dominion East Ohio has proposed a third step in its deregulation program commencing in April of 2013 for medium and small commercial customers. The details of which are in the Joint Motion filed in this proceeding.

The Joint Proposal would among other items, fold the Standard Choice Program for commercial customers into the Multi Variable Rate program. All commercial customers then would have the same default supply, and that supply would be based on market prices for both commodity and basis. The Joint Proposal has been supported by the Staff of the Commission in its written comments and testimony, as well as by the independent natural gas suppliers.

COSE would like to add its support to the Joint Motion and indicate that it believes that further deregulation, particularly for small commercial customers, will improve the business climate in Northeast Ohio.

On behalf of COSE and its members I would like to thank the Commission for considering our letter as it reviews the evidence in the matter, and request that the Commission upon review of the record in this case approve the joint motion.

Sincerely,

Steve Millard
President & Executive Director

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