

FILE

January 23, 2013

**Cincinnati USA
Regional Chamber**

Ellen G. van der Horst
President & CEO

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

Re: PUCO Case(s) 12-1682-EL-AIR & 12-1685-GA-AIR

Dear Chairman Snitchler,

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, the nation's 5th largest metro chamber representing over 500 businesses and 300,000 employees, strongly supports Duke Energy as an actively engaged community leader in the Cincinnati USA region. The Chamber is focused on building a region that will allow families and businesses to prosper. For years, Duke Energy has championed those efforts with a demonstrated commitment to improving the local business climate and quality of life in this region.

This commitment can be seen through Duke's participation in the Cincinnati region's business community. Jim Henning, current President of Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky, is an active member of the Chamber Board of Directors. Julie Janson, former President of Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky, served as the 2012 chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Not only did Julie commit to the duties of the chairperson, she also stepped up to organize and lead the Brent Spence Bridge Coalition. This dynamic partnership of 120 businesses is working to accelerate the replacement of the Brent Spence Bridge, the I-71/I-75 Ohio River crossing identified as critical for safety and economic growth.

Additionally, Duke Energy's economic development and community development staff are engaged in growing businesses and jobs in the Cincinnati USA region. Duke is a long-time financial supporter of the Cincinnati USA Partnership, the JobsOhio representative in southwest Ohio charged with attracting and growing jobs in the region. This year, Duke also made a substantial investment in Cintrifuse, a not-for-profit organization working to turn Cincinnati into a magnet for high-growth startups. And, Duke contributed significantly to the new Smale Riverfront Park, a critical part of the \$1 billion "Banks" development project on the Cincinnati riverfront. Duke is truly a corporate community partner that consistently devotes considerable time, talent and treasure to help build healthy, sustainable communities in which to live, work and do business.

The Chamber's mission is to make Cincinnati USA the world's favorite American business center. Together with the leadership and community support of Duke Energy, we have terrific momentum toward that end.

Sincerely,


Ellen G. van der Horst

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