



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA™
TECUMSEH COUNCIL

FILE

January 28, 2013

Jim Nolan
CEO/Scout Executive
Tecumseh Council
326 S. Thompson Ave.
Springfield, OH 45506

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

Case no. 12-426-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

Tecumseh Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves over 3,800 young people covering five Ohio counties – Greene, Clark, Champaign, Clinton and Logan. In addition, we own and operate Camp Birch Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs. This camp provides outdoor programs for over 12,000 children each year from a wide variety of community groups including Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Junior ROTC, Dept. of Jobs & Family Services, DARE Drug Prevention, local school districts, colleges and churches.

Our organization is fortunate to receive support from Dayton Power & Light Company. Their investment in the community makes a positive difference in the lives of these children. Tecumseh Council's partnership with DP&L goes back at least 20 years. During my five years tenure here, DP&L has provided funding for vital program areas needed to operate a high quality camp. Items funded by DP&L over the past three years include new mountain bikes, kayaks and a first aid lodge. The mountain bikes allowed us to start a mountain bike merit badge program in conjunction with the John Bryan State Park mountain bike course. This initiative helps promote healthy living and exercise for area youth. The kayaks have enhanced our boating program at our lake in Camp Birch. The new first aid lodge provides a first class facility for illnesses, injuries or a place to cool off on hot summer days.

For 2013, DP&L is sponsoring our annual Scouting for Food drive. Every March through Scouting for Food, our Scouts replenish the shelves of food banks at a point when pantries are at their lowest point. In 2012, we filled food banks to capacity with more than 87,000 items collected – at a time when residents of our communities needed this food the most. This amount equals enough food collected to feed 7,500 people in our community for one week.

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Some pantries receive enough food from this effort to supply their customers for two months. Our goal for 2013 is collecting 100,000 lbs. of food. The food bags and collection barrels provided by the sponsor donation are vital to our effort. DP&L's financial support will keep these food pantries stocked and help alleviate hunger throughout the five counties we serve. In April, DP&L donated tickets for a suite to two Dayton Dragons games for Scouts in a challenged area of Springfield. All of these children come from single parent homes. These Scouts had never been to a baseball game before let alone in a suite. This was a mountain-top experience that these boys will never forget.

I shudder to think of how a loss of funding from DP&L would impact our program and ability to serve youth. The leadership skills, character development, fitness, outdoor appreciation, citizenship and talents learned in Scouting depend on corporate funders such as DP&L. The other community youth groups that utilize Camp Birch also benefit from DP&L's support. Camp Birch is truly a community resource used by many families in the area. Whenever there is a need to be filled so we can deliver a quality program to these kids, DP&L has been there for us.

In conclusion, DP&L's impact on the growth and development of youth in our community is immense. These are our future civic and business leaders. With schools not having funding for many programs, the need for positive youth activities is greater than ever. DP&L touches many lives and makes the Miami Valley a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Jim Nolan
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