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PUCO

March 27, 2013

Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman
Public Utility Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Re: Complaint Regarding Duke Energy Ohio's Proposed Delivery Rate Increases.
Case No's. 12-1682-EL-AIR and 12-1685-GA-AIR**

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

I am writing on behalf of LaRosa's Inc. in Cincinnati to express strong concern over the alarming increase in electric and natural gas distribution rates we will experience if the PUCO approves the proposal submitted by Duke Energy of Ohio. The increase requested is significantly higher than the rate of inflation since Duke's last delivery rate increase in 2009. We urge you to seriously consider reducing the amount of the increase to one that is consistent with the lower end of the range recommended by the PUCO Staff.

In light of Duke's proposed rate increase, an analysis was done to forecast our annual delivery cost. Our Duke electric delivery bill will increase approximately \$20,900/yr or 11.9%. Our Duke gas delivery bill will increase approximately \$7,200/yr or 9.9%.

We are certain the commission is aware of the severe impact the economy has had on business in recent years. We have already been forced to trim our budgets to the bone, and forego hiring and making important business improvements. An increase as large as what Duke proposes will place an even greater strain on our limited resources affecting our ability to grow our business.

We are not against Duke receiving what is needed to manage the business of delivering our energy needs and realize a reasonable profit. But we feel the proposed increase is excessive and not reasonable.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We request that you have a copy of this letter filed in PUCO Case No's 12-1682-EL-AIR and 12-1685-GA-AIR

Sincerely,

Michael T. LaRosa CEO

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