

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Commission's	)	
Review of the Natural Gas Retail	)	Case No. 13-1307-GA-COI
Market Development	)	

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**INITIAL COMMENTS OF THE OHIO OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION**

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Pursuant to the June 5, 2013 Entry in this matter, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association ("the Association") respectfully submits these comments in this matter. Its members produce substantially all of the natural gas produced in Ohio each year. Thus, the Association has a substantive interest in the Ohio gas market.

The Association is one of the largest and most active state-based oil and natural gas associations in the country and has served as the representative of Ohio's oil and gas production industry since 1947. Its over 3,000 members, including many small business entities, are involved in all aspects of the exploration, development, production and marketing of crude oil and natural gas resources in the State of Ohio. The Association members often rely on the Association as their primary source of information on industry trends, activities, tax changes, legislation and regulatory matters. The Association also serves to protect its members' interest by participating in federal and state regulatory actions involving the crude oil and natural gas industry.

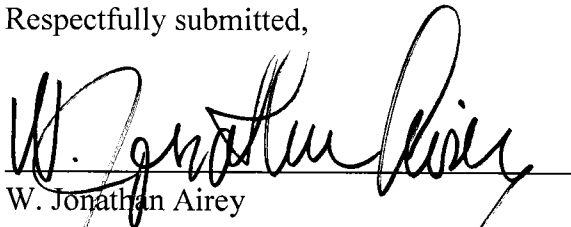
In its June 5, 2013 Entry, the Commission stated that it is the policy of the State of Ohio to promote effective competition and the diversity of natural gas supplies and suppliers, by

giving consumers effective competitive choices; and recognizing the continuing emergence of competitive natural gas markets, by developing and implementing flexible regulatory treatment.

The Commission posed five questions in Finding (5) of its Entry and invited interested persons to address these questions with initial comments on July 9 and reply comments on July 30, 2013. As the Commission contemplates any regulatory changes, educational programs, various processes for SCO providers and competitive retail natural gas providers, barriers to market entry and whether the SCO is functioning as a competitive market price, the Association urges the Commission not to take any action or steps that may inhibit, stifle or adversely affect the production and marketing of Ohio produced gas and oil.

The Association reserves the right to file reply comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Jonathan Airey", is written over a horizontal line.

W. Jonathan Airey

Gregory D. Russell

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

52 E. Gay Street

Columbus, OH 43215


614-464-6346

[wjairey@vorys.com](mailto:wjairey@vorys.com)

Attorneys for the Ohio Oil and Gas Association

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served via U.S. Mail or via electronic mail where indicated on the following persons this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013 and upon all those who filed comments in this matter by either US Mail or electronic mail by no later than July 11, 2013:

  
Stephen M. Howard

Thomas M. Bellish  
Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.  
8870 Darrow Rd. #F106  
Twinsburg, OH 44087

*via email*

[msmalz@ohiopoveritylaw.org](mailto:msmalz@ohiopoveritylaw.org)  
[jmaskovyak@ohiopoveritylaw.org](mailto:jmaskovyak@ohiopoveritylaw.org)  
[ejacobs@ablelaw.org](mailto:ejacobs@ablelaw.org)  
[nmorgan@lascinti.org](mailto:nmorgan@lascinti.org)  
[plee@oslsa.org](mailto:plee@oslsa.org)  
[rjohns@oslsa.org](mailto:rjohns@oslsa.org)  
[julie.robie@lasclev.org](mailto:julie.robie@lasclev.org)  
[anne.reese@lasclev.org](mailto:anne.reese@lasclev.org)  
[meissnerjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:meissnerjoseph@yahoo.com)  
[merville@columbuslegalaid.org](mailto:merville@columbuslegalaid.org)  
[cmooney@ohiopartners.org](mailto:cmooney@ohiopartners.org)

William Sundermeyer  
Associate State Director, Advocacy  
AARP Ohio  
17 S. High Street, #800  
Columbus, OH 43215

*via email*

Steven B. Seiple  
Brooke E. Leslie  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.  
200 Civic Center Drive  
Columbus, OH 43216-0117  
[sseiple@nisource.com](mailto:sseiple@nisource.com)  
[bleslie@nisource.com](mailto:bleslie@nisource.com)

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**Case No(s). 13-1307-GA-COI**

Summary: Comments Initial Comments electronically filed by Mr. Stephen M Howard on behalf of Ohio Oil and Gas Association