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October 2, 2014

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

On behalf of Rhino Energy LLC and our 219 hard-working Ohio employees, I want to keep affordable and reliable electricity available to support our economy in the years ahead.

FirstEnergy has been a valuable coal customer of my company and I believe they have done an excellent job keeping electric prices affordable for businesses and consumers. However, FirstEnergy and others have been challenged in recent years by regulatory issues and market pressures that have led to the closing of many of Ohio's largest power plants, and more retirements are expected. I'm concerned that these factors could drive up electricity prices and affect the reliability of our service at a time when we're still recovering from a difficult economy.

We can't afford to wait on the sidelines for the market to react or the federal government to intervene. The time is now for Ohio to take action and secure our energy future.

That's why I'm urging your support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*, which will help keep future price increases in check while enabling Ohio to preserve its vital energy resources. FirstEnergy's plan also provides economic development funding to help Ohio create more jobs and attract new business growth.

We truly appreciate FirstEnergy's commitment to serving Ohio's energy needs, and we hope you will support this solid plan for our state's energy future. In the meantime, we would appreciate it if your staff could docket this letter as part of the record in this proceeding (14-1297-EL-SSO).

Best regards,

Christopher I. Walton
President & CEO

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Technician MI Date Processed OCT 15 2014

cc: Chairman Thomas W. Johnson
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

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