

November 19, 2014

Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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Dear Chairman Johnson,

On behalf of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) representing business leaders in 16 Eastern Ohio counties, we strongly urge you to support and approve AEP Ohio's proposed Power Purchase Agreement.

Ohio is facing a period of unprecedented uncertainty related to the future supply of low-cost reliable energy. Since 2012, utilities in Ohio have announced the retirement of over 5,500 MW of generation by the middle of next year. The majority of these retirements were announced in response to several new regulations imposed by the EPA. However, current market conditions are such that even plants that will be environmentally compliant and are equipped to run reliably for many more years may be forced to shutter for economic reasons. As a result, Ohio will be a large importer of energy for the foreseeable future.

The loss of these facilities means the loss of jobs and taxes in Ohio. These plants represent significant economic benefits to Ohio and local economies in terms of employment, wages and taxes paid. More than 1,100 employees at these facilities, including many of the members we serve, provide approximately \$86 million in direct income and indirectly contribute to over \$173 million of income to the state. It is estimated the total economic benefit (both direct and indirect) to Ohio from these plants exceeds \$500 million annually.

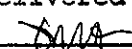
By doing nothing and allowing these jobs to leave Ohio is unacceptable. The time is now to act to secure Ohio's energy future. AEP Ohio's Power Purchase Agreement proposal protects Ohio's economy by keeping hundreds of Ohioans employed and millions of dollars of annual economic benefit in place while helping shield AEP Ohio's customers from market volatility. It is a good plan and we encourage you to approve the plan as it is filed in Case No. 14-1693-EL-RDR and Case No. 14-1694-EL-AAM.

Sincerely,


Tracy Drake
President


Dale Hileman
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable John Kasich

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