

12-4-2014

**LOCAL UNION 1289**

P.O. BOX 1690, WALL, NJ 07719



PUCO

2014 DEC 18 AM 10:30

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

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

Dear Governor Kasich:

Ohio's power plants create thousands of union jobs and produce major infrastructure projects that put IBEW members to work.

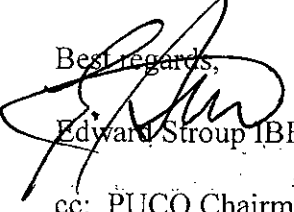
We are greatly concerned that numerous power plants in Ohio have permanently shut down in recent years, and many more are expected to close in the years ahead. Further decline in Ohio's electric power industry could cost thousands of union jobs and discourage industrial development opportunities across the state.

This is an outcome Ohio cannot afford. Already, a struggling economy and other factors have led to reductions in operations and capital improvement expenditures at numerous power production and manufacturing facilities across Ohio. Industrial construction hours for certain segments of the industry are down 53 percent from 2008, very much to the detriment of our members and Ohio's economy.

Consistent with our interest in creating construction job opportunities, we're urging your support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*. FirstEnergy's plan strikes the right balance between keeping electricity affordable for customers while helping to ensure the continued operation of Ohio power plants, including the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Oak Harbor, the W.H. Sammis Plant in Stratton, and the OVEC plant in Gallipolis, Ohio. These plants provide a huge economic benefit to the state of Ohio. Together, the ongoing operations of these plants create an economic impact in the state of more than \$1 billion annually, and directly and indirectly support an estimated 3,000 jobs.


Unless we take action, the long-term viability of these plants – along with the jobs and substantial economic opportunities they bring to our members– may be at risk. We respectfully request that you support this plan to keep energy affordable and protect Ohio jobs. Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me if I can be of any assistance. In the meantime, we would appreciate it if your staff could docket this letter as part of the record in this proceeding (PUCO Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO).

Best regards,



Edward Stroup IBEW LU 1289 President and Business Manager

cc: PUCO Chairman Thomas W. Johnson

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