



710 Colegate Drive, Marietta OH 45750-9229
Phone: 740-568-1958 Fax: 740-373-7496
www.seohiport.com

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Executive Director

Janet Nelson
Executive Assistant

Michele Tipton
Outreach Coordinator

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February 23, 2015

Mr. Tom Johnson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
80 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Eramet modification to their reasonable arrangement (PUCO Case No. 09-516-EL-AEC)

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I write today to express the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority's support for Eramet Marietta's modification to their reasonable arrangement currently pending before the PUCO. As a major employer in Washington County, Eramet makes a significant contribution to our local economy. In fact, Eramet contributes more than sixty-five million dollars annually towards our economy in wages and benefits for its employees and retirees as well as their payment of state and local taxes that support our community.

With the approval of this proposal, I am told that Eramet will be able to commit investment to meet federal EPA mandates and maintain jobs.

The most critical component necessary to sustain the viability of this company is the provision of affordable electricity in order to permit this important development for our area. Quite simply, failure to provide for affordable power could lead to closure of this facility which would serve as a devastating blow to our economy.

Thus, I hope that the PUCO would look favorable upon Eramet's modification to their reasonable arrangement. The ability of Eramet to invest in capital upgrades and retain their well paid employees at their Marietta facility will provide substantial benefits for years to come to our region and our state. Thank you for your attention and work on this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Webster
Chairman of the Board

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