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PUCO

January 29, 2016

Quality Solid Unfinished & Refinished Hardwood Flooring

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Opposition Comment to PPA Cases 14-1693-EL-RDR; 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear PUCO:

I am writing to urge you to reject the negotiated settlements of FirstEnergy and AEP (and a small group of others who have negotiated certain benefits) that will enable the utilities to implement costly Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) riders and other cost-driving provisions.

Should the PUCO approve the deals, both utilities will be able to collect costs (via non-bypassable PPA riders) from all of their customers to subsidize their uneconomical generation assets, thus protecting the utilities from cost risk and guaranteeing their profits and cost recovery... At the expense of placing it all on the backs of their customers for an eight-year term.

Ohio's Consumers' Counsel has estimated that the FirstEnergy settlement could cost consumers \$3.9 billion over the eight-year duration of the PPA, and the AEP settlement could cost consumers \$2 billion.

Our company consumes approximately 2,122,000 kWh/year. We estimate the additional costs of this new rider to be \$105,834 over the eight year term of the case. That is real money that could be used on more productive purposes updating our equipment, increasing our inventories and building a new finishing plant for our hardwood flooring products ---- ALL OF WHICH BRING MORE TAXABLE INCOME TO THE STATE OF OHIO AND INCREASE OUR CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY.

If approved by the full PUCO, these deals will put an unnecessary and anti-competitive layer of costs on consumers with no commensurate benefits, constrain competition, and dampen technological innovation in Ohio. In addition, both settlements contain other provisions that will increase costs to consumers.

These deals are a **massive setback** to the consumer-friendly efficiency of the market.

Please protect Ohio manufacturers and all consumers in FirstEnergy and AEP territories, the lion's share of the state in terms of utilities, from this substantial bailout.

Respectfully,

Barbara Titus,
Vice President

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