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To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: Docketing
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:22:44 PM

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Investigation and Audit Division

Memorandum

Date: 2/2/2017

Re: James Mc Creary
3071 Jetstream Dr

Columbus, OH 43231

Docketing Case No.: 15-1594-AU-COI

Notes:

Please docket the attached in the case number above.

I am writing to you about my concerns for the poor, in regards to the issue of submetering, and your open period for public comments for your ~~â€œ~~Commission ordered investigation of submetering in the state of Ohio.

I appreciate that the PUCO looks out for the consumers, to limit what companies like American Electric Power can charge for usage, additional fees that can be added, and set standard policies for dealing with people that face financial hardship. Those policies help to make utility payments affordable for everyone. In particular regulated utilities assist those in poverty, or suffering financial hardship like disability or job loss, by allowing special payments plans, or assistance with PIPP, to avoid utility shut-off.

It is our understanding that submeterers in Ohio are currently exempt from some of these PUCO oversights and regulations, that are aimed to protect consumers. Submeterers in particular service the utility needs for those who dwell in apartments or condominiums. These dwellers and owners are not always, but often are lower income, elderly and in poverty. There are many submetering companies in the state of Ohio, many of which that charge very low fees and pass on the cost of the utility that they pay. However, there are also many that use this loophole to charge much higher rates for utilities, and not be as flexible at dealing with people going through hardship. There have been many articles in the newspaper that provide examples of some of the abuse that has been going on. Also, our church ministers to the poor through the financial ministry, food pantries and Ohio Benefit Bank services. They have witnessed firsthand the

financial burden this has placed on people of modest means. In addition, the state's office of Consumers Counsel and the Ohio Poverty Law Center, too feel that this loop hole negatively affects the poor.

There are many excellent submetering companies in Ohio that do a great job to service unique needs of some consumers, without charging high costs to do so. In fact, they have lowered the costs of utilities for some of their apartment dwellers. Therefore it is not my intent to malign all submeterers, nor to over-regulate them to the point that they cannot efficiently help consumers. However, I feel that they need to fall under some regulations, to not only protect consumers, but to insure that the good submeterers are able to continue to provide needed services to their clients

James A. McCreary

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Case No(s). 15-1594-AU-COI

Summary: Public Comment in support of regulating sub-metering companies filed on behalf of concerned consumer, James McCreary electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M Hunter on behalf of PUCO Staff