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PUCO

180 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH

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Dear Members of the PUCO,

I am writing as a rate payer with First Energy but also as a member of a growing class of rate payers who have invested in creating solar capacity for home use.

I urge you to reject or minimize any fixed cost increase requests from the four electric utility companies which are currently (or will be in the near future) seeking such rate increases. I think these requests are unfair, short-sighted and regressive.

They are unfair to those of us who have invested a considerable amount of money to create solar capacity in our home. We are paying \$15,000.00 dollars and are expecting a 7-10 year payment period (at today's rates with a modest rate increase going forward). To shift the burden of future rate increases toward fixed-cost categories essentially negates or diminishes the benefit of investing in solar technology and infrastructure for individual homeowners. It is unfair to those of us who not only consume energy but even more so to those of us who invest in alternative and renewable energy sources and methods of electricity.

It is short-sighted in that positions Ohio as a state whose electricity generating capacity will remain primarily based in fossil-fuel energy sources, and

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thus not attractive to the growing group of organizers and citizens who want to consider and invest in, alternative and renewable sources of energy to generate electricity, both now and in the future. These proposals to shift costs of energy in the direction of fixed-costs undermines the movement and investment which seeks to create and establish Ohio as a forward-thinking and forward-looking state which is willing to consider new and emerging energy technology sources and methods, including wind, solar, geothermal. If the industrial economy of Germany can find a way to shift the majority of their electric-generating capacity toward solar, they can too! Fixed-cost "penalties" on solar, wind and geothermal defeat the larger purpose of looking forward to the future, both financially as well as environmentally.

Fixed-cost price and rate increases also are regressive toward those who use the least amount of energy, while in a sense rewarding those who use the most energy. Single-person households, the poor, and fixed-income households will be adversely affected by such rate increases in fixed-costs.

I urge you to reject or minimize any such fixed-cost rate increases by the Public-Utility Companies currently operating in the state of Ohio. These requests are unfair, short-sighted and regressive to those least able to afford them.

Sincerely,
Shawn WITMER

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