

From: webmaster@puc.state.oh.us  
To: PUCO ContactThePUCO  
Subject: PUCO CONTACT FORM: 112569  
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WEB ID: 112569 AT:05-03-2017 at 02:19 PM

Related Case Number:

TYPE: Comment

NAME: Ms. Candice Brothers

CONTACT SENDER ? Yes

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INDUSTRY:Electric

ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

- Company: First Energy
- Name on account: Elliott Hedrick
- *(no service address provided?)*
- *(no service phone number provided?)*
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COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

As a First Energy customer and renewable energy sector employee, I am very concerned about case 17-334-EL-ATA. In this case, FirstEnergy has asked the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to allow them to increase their fixed charges, which reduces the amount customers can save by using less energy or choosing to go solar. There will be several implications of these proposed increases: 1) Customers will have decreased control over how much they pay for their electric bill each month. Because fixed charges are permanent charges on each customer's bill, the customers cannot reduce their bill by reducing their electrical consumption or using another power source. This hurts hardest families that are trying to save money by conserving power due to poverty or being on a fixed income. And because of a lack of options in the utility marketplace, customers cannot switch to another company if they don't like the extra charges because there is either not an alternative company in the area or the companies in that area all have the same fixed rates. 2) Businesses will have less incentive to relocate to Ohio because electric bills will be higher. One of the advantages of businesses expanding in Ohio is that we have a lower cost of doing business due to lower electric rates. Increasing fixed costs will increase the cost of electricity not just for residential customers, but for business customers as well. Additionally, many companies are looking to offset their usage with renewable energy. Companies such as Facebook and Amazon have already passed up expanding in Ohio due to unfriendly regulations in regards to energy

conservation and renewable energy incentives. 3) Customers will have little incentive to reduce their electric consumption or invest in renewable energy. Because customers cannot reduce their bill by reducing their electrical consumption or using another power source, there is less incentive to conserve energy or invest in alternatives. This will increase demand for electricity which will increase carbon emissions and climate change. 4) It will be harder for Ohio to meet its renewable energy goals with higher fixed rates as there will be less incentive to invest in solar energy. If fees must be increased, put them on the variable rate charge so that customers have control over their bills and energy reduction is incentivized. Increasing fixed rates locks customers into paying more for the same service.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**Case No(s). 17-0334-EL-ATA**

Summary: Public Comment filed on behalf of consumer electronically filed by Docketing Staff  
on behalf of Docketing