



155 East Broad Street  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio, 43215

o: 614-222-1330  
f: 614-222-1337

February 8, 2019

Ms. Tanowa M. Troupe, Secretary  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Duke Energy Ohio Case No. 19-48-EL-BLN  
Garver Substation Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Troupe:

The Affidavit of Publications and proof of publication are being electronically filed today.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emily A. Olive, CP

Emily A. Olive  
Certified Paralegal

# Can bills from Ohio lawmakers prevent shutdowns?

Liz Skalka  
(Toledo) Blade

Could the fifth time be the charm for U.S. Sen. Rob Portman’s bill to end government shutdowns once and for all?

Portman, the Terrace Park Republican, believes so. Then again, he’s had a few false starts.

But when have lawmakers and the nation been this primed to do away with the anxiety and hardship of prolonged shutdowns?

“This legislation has been in five Congresses. We’ve never been able to get it passed,” Portman said. “But I think finally there’s a sense that we’re tired of this; we want to see something different. And I’m hearing from Republicans and Democrats alike – even those who aren’t on my bill who might have a different idea – that we have to come up with a solution here.”

With matching bills proposed by two Ohio lawmakers, the state is perhaps ground zero for the movement to prevent a future shutdown, which the nation could be facing in another two weeks once President Donald Trump’s temporary continuing resolution expires.

Portman, Ohio’s junior senator, has been one of Congress’ most vocal supporters of passing legislation to stop closures like the one that



**U.S. Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Rob Portman, R-Ohio, head to the Senate floor last week prior to a vote on ending the partial government shutdown.** J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

started in late 2018 and lasted 35 days, making it the longest in U.S. history.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, plans to review Portman’s bill.

“We should always fund the government. Period,” Brown said. “The real issue is that our president held hardworking Americans’ paychecks hostage, all for a border wall he promised Mexico would pay for. I hope President Trump has learned he cannot do that going forward.”

As shuttered wings of the govern-

ment reopen this week, lawmakers are learning the effects of the partial shutdown reverberated far beyond the wallets of 800,000 federal workers who went without pay.

The government limping along for five weeks wound up costing the economy \$11 billion, \$3 billion of which is permanently lost, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

Portman and his bill’s 19 co-sponsors – including Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa; Pat Toomey R-Pa.; and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska – are hoping to prevent a similar hit down the road.

“It costs money to shut down the government, and it costs more money to reopen it,” Grassley said in a statement. “When the government shuts down, Americans are deprived of essential services, and their tax dollars are needlessly wasted.”

Portman’s bill, the End Government Shutdowns Act, would create an automatic continuing resolution for any appropriations bill not passed by the Oct. 1 deadline. After 120 days, funding would be reduced 1 percent, and another 1 percent would be shaved off every 90 days until Congress passes the bill.

Republican U.S. Rep. Troy Balderson of Zanesville, Ohio, introduced a companion bill to Portman’s in the House. To pass, it would need the support of Democrats.

On the Democratic side, similar legislation was introduced last week by Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia. His Stop Stupidity (Shutdowns Transferring Unnecessary Pain and Inflicting Damage In The Coming Years) Act, would automatically renew funding at the prior year’s levels except for Congress and the White House.

Warner’s bill came before the president announced Friday a reprieve from the shutdown without funding for his proposed wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. It came the same day many federal workers missed a second paycheck and the Federal Aviation Administration closed several northeast airports due to a staff shortage.

While Portman is optimistic, some experts aren’t convinced his proposal will go anywhere.

“It seems to be somewhat of an attempt to provide Republican cover to show how they’re against potential government shutdown while still voting to continue to create a government shutdown,” said Aaron Scherb, director of legislative affairs with Common Cause, a government watchdog. “It seems to be a political tool.”

“If Republicans in Congress wanted to prevent a government shutdown, they could have. They controlled all levels of government when it started.”

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., (Duke Energy Ohio) is proposing an electric transmission project in your area. This project will allow for the expansion of the Garver Substation, located at 3431 Cincinnati Dayton Road, in Middletown, Ohio. This project will provide space for equipment to route one new and three existing 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines into the substation to support the area’s growing energy needs.

The fence will be expanding on Duke Energy Ohio property to measure approximately 410 feet by 329 feet. A map of the project area is included below. Preconstruction activities including vegetation clearing for the substation expansion will begin this spring.

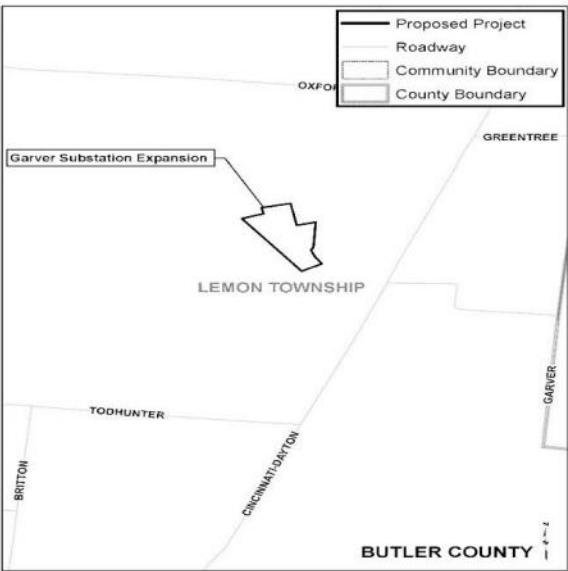
Duke Energy Ohio has filed a Letter of Notification with the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board), under Case No. 19-0048-EL-BLN. This number should be included in all communications with respect to the Project. The Letter of Notification to construct, operate, and maintain this facility is now pending before the Board. Comments and/or petitions to intervene will be accepted by the Board up to 10 days following the publication date of this notice, pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Rules 4906-2-12 and 4906-6-08. Petitions or comments should be addressed to Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, and must reference Case No. 19-0048-EL-BLN.

The following public officials, agencies, and library have been served with the Application, as required by Ohio Power Siting Board regulations:

- Butler County Commissioners**  
Donald Dixon, President  
T.C. Rogers, Vice President  
Cindy Carpenter, Commissioner  
**Butler County Administration**  
David Fehr, Acting County Administrator  
Dennis Dickard, Building & Zoning Administrator  
Mike McNamara, Development Administrator  
P. Zeb Acuff, Planning Administrator  
**City of Middletown**  
Larry Mulligan, Jr., Mayor  
Douglas Adkins, City Manager  
Ashley Combs, Planning Director  
Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner  
Community Revitalization

**MidPointe Library Middletown**  
125 South Broad Street, Middletown, OH 45044  
Stella Tompoulidis, MidPointe Library Middletown Branch Manager

A copy of the application is available for public inspection at the main office of Duke Energy Ohio at 139 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 and at the offices of the Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. It is also available on the Duke Energy Ohio website, at: <http://www.duke-energy.com/transmission-projects>, and on the Ohio Power Siting Board’s website, at: [www.opsb.ohio.gov](http://www.opsb.ohio.gov).



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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**Case No(s). 19-0048-EL-BLN**

Summary: Proof of Pub electronically filed by Carys Cochern on behalf of Duke Energy