BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of))	
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval)) Case No. 20-599-GE-UNC	
of its Temporary Plan and Waiver of)		
Tariffs and Rules Related to the)		
COVID-19 State of Emergency.)		
In the Matter of the Application of)		
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval)	Case No. 20-856-EL-AE	
of a Reasonable Arrangement.	,		
In the Matter of the Application of)	Case No. 20-857-EL-RDR	
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. to Modify its)		
Economic Competitiveness Fund)		
Rider and Request for Waivers.)		

APPLICATION FOR REHEARING REGARDING PUCO ORDER ON DUKE ENERGY OHIO'S TEMPORARY PLAN ADDRESSING CONSUMER PROTECTION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY BY THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

A major development this week (July 15) is that Governor Mike DeWine addressed the people of Ohio regarding the threat of the coronavirus, again showing his great concern for their safety and welfare. The Governor advised that "We have now reached THE most critical point in our battle against the coronavirus." (Original

 $\frac{https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/07/15/file_attachments/1496675/Address\%20too\%20the\%20People\%20of\%20Ohio\%20As\%20Prepared\%2007.15.20.pdf}{}$

¹ "As Prepared Address to the Citizens of Ohio," Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (July 15, 2020) (see Attachment);

emphasis) He warned that "If all of us do not take immediate action to slow this virus down, the tragedy that we see playing out on our television screens every day in Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California may well be our reality in just a matter of weeks." He informed that "Clearly – clearly the virus is spreading with a vengeance across many parts of Ohio and lurks, waiting to attack victims in all of our 88 counties. Tragically, in just four months, we have already lost 3,075 Ohioans to this dreaded disease – nearly the same number of Ohioans who died in the Vietnam War (3,094)." (Footnote omitted)

He continued that "Ohio is sliding – sliding down a very dangerous path, with our once flattened-curve starting to sharpen and spike.... Weeks can be the difference between who lives and who dies in Ohio." And he said "But masks are not enough.... Good decisions will protect the economy and save lives. Reckless ones will hurt and kill."

The coronavirus emergency and the ensuing economic emergency have led to much suffering this year for many Ohioans. Protections are needed to address the challenges faced by at-risk populations (especially low-income populations, of which black and minority consumers are disproportionately impacted), including but not limited to the challenges of poverty, food insecurity, and social disparities. The PUCO took action in its May 20, 2020 Finding and Order ("Order") to protect consumers during this time of the coronavirus emergency. Those actions included suspending disconnections and prohibiting cost shifting. But more needs to be done to protect consumers, especially given the consumer struggles in Duke's service territory. The city of Cincinnati was experiencing 28.7% poverty and Hamilton County was experiencing 14.1% food insecurity even before the health emergency.

In this regard, the PUCO should have adopted such OCC Recommendations as to maintain the ban on Duke's disconnections of consumers' utility service for an indefinite (reasonable) period of time after the end of the declared emergency. Our proposal continues to be an imperative for consumers. Either consumers' health, safety, and welfare protections should continue after the formal end of the emergency or the formal emergency should be continued.

The PUCO's order was unreasonable and unlawful in the following respects:

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 1: The PUCO erred by failing to require reconnections of customers that Duke disconnected during the time period beginning thirty days before the PUCO's emergency Order went into effect, and its decision is not supported by record evidence thus violating R.C. 4903.09.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 2: The PUCO erred by failing to continue the consumer protection of the suspension of utility disconnections for a reasonable period of time after its declared emergency has ended.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 3: The PUCO erred by failing to order that its declared emergency will continue indefinitely consistent with the threat of the coronavirus to Ohioans and the consequences of its financial impact on them.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 4: The PUCO erred by failing to enter an order adopting all the consumer protection recommendations of the National Consumer Law Center as proposed by OCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973) Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ William J. Michael

William J. Michael (0070921) Counsel of Record Ambrosia E. Wilson (0096598) Assistant Consumers' Counsel

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)	Case No. 20-599-GE-UNC
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval)	
of its Temporary Plan and Waiver of)	
Tariffs and Rules Related to the)	
COVID-19 State of Emergency.	,	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval of a Reasonable Arrangement.))	Case No. 20-856-EL-AEC
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. to Modify its Economic Competitiveness Fund Rider and Request for Waivers.)	Case No. 20-857-EL-RDR
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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR REHEARING REGARDING DUKE ENERGY OHIO'S TEMPORARY PLAN ADDRESSING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY BY

THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

I. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus emergency and the ensuing economic emergency have led to much suffering this year for many Ohioans, including among at-risk populations already in need of protection under R.C. 4928.02(L). Jobs and wages are being lost. Families are struggling to pay their bills. Consumers need relief.

There are looming health and financial concerns with the coronavirus. Various concerns should be addressed by granting OCC's application for rehearing.

The PUCO's failure to further act to protect customers was unreasonable and unlawful.

The statutory standard for abrogating or modifying some portions of the Finding and Order is met here. The PUCO should grant and hold rehearing on the matters specified in this Application for Rehearing and abrogate or modify the Finding and Order consistent with OCC's Recommendations herein.

II. MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 1: The PUCO erred by failing to require reconnections of customers that Duke disconnected during the time period beginning thirty days before the PUCO's emergency Order went into effect, and its decision is not supported by record evidence thus violating R.C. 4903.09.

In its comments, OCC recommended that the PUCO order Duke to protect consumers by reconnecting those that were disconnected thirty days before the PUCO's emergency Order.² The PUCO found OCC's suggested "look-back" period "unnecessary." That finding is unreasonable and unlawful, and the PUCO erred in making it.

OCC intervened in this proceeding to raise questions regarding Duke's Emergency Plan. Thus, this proceeding is a "contested case" for purposes of R.C. 4903.09. R.C. 4903.09 expressly states:

In *all contested cases* heard by the public utilities commission, a complete record of all the proceedings shall be made, including a transcript of all testimony and of all exhibits, and the commission shall file, with the records of such cases, findings of fact and written opinions setting forth the reasons prompting the decision arrived at, based upon said findings of fact. (emphasis added).

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² See OCC's Comments at 8.

³ See Order at 10.

The PUCO summarily rejected without explanation OCC's recommendation that Duke should be required to protect consumers by reconnecting those customers disconnected thirty days before March 9, 2020.⁴ The PUCO's failure to explain the reasons for its decision violated R.C. 4903.09. Thus, the PUCO should grant rehearing.

All consumers have been affected by the coronavirus emergency. Those who by sheer happenstance were disconnected by Duke a short period of time before the emergency are no less worthy of protection than those consumers who were disconnected after the emergency. They face health challenges. They face financial challenges. They need basic utility service. They should be protected by the PUCO. The PUCO should abrogate its order and direct Duke to reconnect consumers who were disconnected due to non-payment in the thirty days before the emergency was declared.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 2: The PUCO erred by failing to continue the consumer protection of the suspension of utility disconnections for a reasonable period of time after its declared emergency has ended.

OCC recommended in its comments that the PUCO should continue the suspension of disconnections for a reasonable period of time after the coronavirus emergency, or the formal emergency should be continued..⁵ OCC appreciates the PUCO's recognition of the importance of this issue and supports the requirement for Duke to file a plan to address it, with the opportunity for interested parties to comment.⁶

But due to the coronavirus, consumers need protection now. While they are struggling with lost wages, jobs, and the health matters associated with the coronavirus, the least of their worries should be about receiving basic utility service. The PUCO

⁴ *Id*.

⁵ See OCC's Comments at 6.

⁶ See Order at 9-10.

should order Duke to suspend disconnection for a reasonable period of time after the formal declared emergency, or the formal emergency should be continued.

Its decision not to is unreasonable because it does not sufficiently protect consumers.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 3: The PUCO erred by failing to order that its declared emergency will continue indefinitely consistent with the threat of the coronavirus to Ohioans and the consequences of its financial impact on them.

Ohioans are facing uncertain times. No one can predict with accuracy how the health and financial challenges posed by the coronavirus will turn out or will end. As has been reported, utility consumers could face a second wave of pain – looming utility shutoffs even after the coronavirus health threats end. The PUCO should not abandon or discontinue the consumer protections that it has implemented too early. Instead, the PUCO should further protect consumers by continuing its emergency jurisdiction indefinitely, or at least until an extended period of time after the end to the coronavirus emergency is officially declared.

ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR NO. 4: The PUCO erred by failing to enter an order adopting all the consumer protection recommendations of the National Consumer Law Center as proposed by OCC.

OCC made recommendations in a list developed by the National Consumer Law Center ("NCLC").⁸ Stated generally, the consumer protections would facilitate consumers' ability to pay for their electric service after the emergency is over.⁹ The

⁷ See Energy Wire, "A second wave of pain: Looming utility shutoffs" (May 21, 2020), https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2020/05/21/stories/1063189771.

⁸ See OCC's Comments at 18.

⁹ See id. at attachment A.

PUCO did not adopt the NCLC's recommendations.¹⁰ It should have. At this time, where consumers are facing health and financial challenges due to the coronavirus, they should have certainty now that their essential electric service will not be turned off by Duke. They should have the peace of mind that they will have a reasonable opportunity to pay for their electric service, and any past due amounts that were suspended due to the emergency, after the emergency is over.

The PUCO should establish a uniform set of guidelines applicable to all utilities, consistent with those published by the NCLC, to protect customers throughout the state of emergency and for a reasonable time afterwards. For example, *the PUCO has already approved* Columbia Gas of Ohio's plan to resume disconnecting customers for non-payment and to impose the strict eligibility requirements for participation in the PIPP program beginning July 29, 2020. Dominion Energy Ohio has similarly proposed to resume disconnecting customers for nonpayment beginning August 3, 2020. Suburban's Plan proposes that the utility will mail disconnection notices beginning August 18, with scheduled disconnections the 1st week of September. Gas utilities are resuming their normal pre-COVID-19 activities *even though there is no clear end in sight for the state of emergency*. And each utility is choosing its own deadline for resuming activities such as disconnections for non-payment.

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¹⁰ See Entry.

¹¹ See In the Matter of the Motion of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. to Suspend Certain Procedures and Process During the COVID-19 State of Emergency and Related Matters, Case No. 20-637-GA-UNC, Supplemental Finding and Order (June 17, 2020), at ¶26.

¹² See In the Matter of the Operations of the East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio During the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters, Case No. 20-600-GA-UNC, COVID-19 Transition Plan of Dominion (June 18, 2020), at 2.

¹³ Suburban Transition Plan, at 1.

This highlights the need for a uniform and comprehensive set of consumer protection guidelines applicable to all Ohio gas utilities like those proposed by the NCLC. Suburban's customers – and all Ohio residential gas utility customers – deserve greater consumer protections with respect to essential utility services for the duration of the pandemic and for a reasonable time afterwards. Adopting the uniform set of guidelines proposed by the NCLC would provide customers with much needed certainty regarding their essential utility services during these very uncertain times. Therefore, the PUCO should modify its Order and adopt the NCLC's recommendations.

The consumer protections from the NCLC, advocated for by OCC, should be adopted by the PUCO.

III. CONCLUSION

For the health and economic security of *all* of Duke's customers, the PUCO should grant rehearing on OCC's assignments of error and modify or abrogate its Order as described above. Granting rehearing is necessary to immediately protect *all* of Duke's consumers.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973) Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ William J. Michael

William J. Michael (0070921) Counsel of Record Ambrosia E. Wilson (0096598) Assistant Consumers' Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this Application for Rehearing has been served via electronic transmission upon the following parties of record this 17th day of July 2020.

/s/ William Michael
William Michael
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

The PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the following parties:

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AS PREPARED ADDRESS TO THE CITIZENS OF OHIO OHIO GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE OHIO STATEHOUSE CEREMONIAL OFFICE COLUMBUS, OH JULY 15, 2020

Good evening.

I speak to you tonight from the Governor's office in the Ohio State Capitol.

We have now reached THE most critical point in our battle against the corona virus.

If all of us do not take immediate action to slow this virus down, the tragedy that we see playing out on our television screens every day in Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California may well be our reality in just a matter of weeks.

The good news is that this nightmare does not have to be our future.

Some have wondered what new health orders might be issued tonight. That's a discussion for another time.

As your Governor, I will take whatever action is necessary to protect the people of this state. But, the truth is, what your local health department or the Ohio Department of Health, or what I order is not nearly as important as what we all do in these crucial days ahead.

Our future truly lies in our own hands.

Ohioans have faced many challenges throughout time -- wars, floods, tornados -- but really nothing quite like this, since Governor James Cox was our Governor during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918. Governor Cox and I are both from the Miami Valley, but the reason I keep his figure here is to remind me of the resilience and the strength of all the Ohioans who went through that tragedy.

And I know that Governor Cox must have felt, as I do every day, the pain and anguish of each family who lost someone to that virus.

Early this year, we watched as the corona virus erupted in China, then in Europe, then in the United States -- and then in Ohio.

But, in Ohio -- you did what Ohioans always do!

You rallied together!

You did what needed to be done early in this fight.

And you took a collective leap of faith in a battle against an invisible enemy -- the likes of which hadn't been seen in Ohio and this country in more than 100 years.

You made extraordinary sacrifices.

You left school.

You left work.

You stayed home.

You missed loved ones.

You missed milestones.

You missed paychecks.

Because you are Ohioans -- strong, steadfast, selfless -- you also saved lives.

You flattened the curve!

And, with your individual -- and collective -- actions, you bought Ohio time -- precious, finite time for our health care providers to create a statewide hospital system and for doctors and nurses to learn more about this novel illness and how best to respond...

Time for Ohio to procure lifesaving medical equipment, such as ventilators, as well as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)...

And with no vaccine in sight, time to learn how to better manage this disease so we could carefully and responsibly re-open the state to protect both our lives and our livelihoods.

We sought input from business leaders throughout the state and listened to the scientists and other health experts to develop guiding protocols to open in an incremental, measured way that could protect the safety of employees and customers, alike.

By controlling the spread of the virus early on, we were able to responsibly re-open, and the Ohio economy has started coming back. Ohio's unemployment rate is coming down. While in April, the revised rate was 17.6 percent, in May, the rate dropped to 13.7 percent. And further, for 10 straight weeks, applications for continued unemployment benefits have declined.²

We must keep the virus in check so that we can rebuild consumer confidence and keep this positive economic momentum going.

¹ State Unemployment Rates: Bureau of Labor Statistics: https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.nr0.htm.

² Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, accessed July 14, 2020, https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocomm/pdf/Ohio-Initial-Jobless-Claims.pdf.

So where are we now?

Clearly -- clearly the virus is spreading with a vengeance across many parts of Ohio and lurks, waiting to attack victims in all of our 88 counties.

Tragically, in just four months, we have already lost 3,075 Ohioans to this dreaded disease -- nearly the same number of Ohioans who died in the Vietnam War (3,094).³

Our hospitals are seeing more and more COVID patients. There are 1,027 of our fellow citizens in our hospitals tonight suffering from COVID -- 316 are in intensive care -- 146 are on a ventilator.⁴ And, many of those who have recovered now suffer from long-term -- and in some cases, permanent -- health consequences, such as lung damage, kidney damage, and other significant medical issues.

Ohio is now nearing our April and May peak of just over 1,100 hospital patients, with the Cincinnati and Dayton regions currently seeing more COVID-positive patients in their hospitals than during any previous time during the pandemic and the Cleveland region nearing a similar point⁵

At the beginning of the pandemic, it took Ohio 20 days to reach our first 1,500 total cases. Last week, we saw over 1,500 cases in a single day.⁶ And to think -- just a month ago -- we were at only 400 new cases per day.⁷

Some say that our case numbers are increasing because we are simply doing more testing. Yes -- we are testing more. In fact, our testing has gone up by 87 percent. But, our number of positive cases has skyrocketed by almost 200 percent!⁸

Clearly, our number of new cases is NOT just the result of increased testing!

Let's look again at Ohio and Florida. On June 9th, Florida had 1,200 cases per day -- about the same number of cases that we had in Ohio yesterday.⁹ This past Sunday, just one month later, Florida's case number was at 15,300 new cases in one single day.¹⁰

³https://www.archives.gov/research/military/vietnam-war/casualty-statistics.

⁴ Ohio Department of Health, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

⁵ Ohio Department of Health, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

⁶ Ohio Department of Health, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

⁷ Ohio Department of Health, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

⁸ Ohio Department of Health, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

⁹ State-level Data by Report Date, as compiled by the COVID Tracking Project,

https://covidtracking.comdata/download.

¹⁰ "Two Days of Record Counts: Florida Adds 12,624 COVID Cases Monday, One Day after U.S.-shattering Record 15,300," by David Fleshler, *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, July 13, 2020.

Similarly, a month ago, Florida averaged 8.3 new cases per 100,000 residents per day, a little bit under what we have in Ohio currently. As of yesterday, Florida's new cases have increased sixfold per day (51.8 cases per 100,000 residents per day).¹¹

A month ago, Arizona was also at 1,200 new cases per day. As of Sunday, Arizona was at 3,400 new cases per day. Further, Arizona averaged almost 18 new cases per 100,000 residents per day last month. That has since increased 2.5 times as of yesterday (45.1 cases per 100,000 residents per day). As of Sunday, Arizona was at 3,400 new cases per day as a sunday are sidents per day last month. That has since increased 2.5 times as of yesterday (45.1 cases per 100,000 residents per day).

And, if we do not change course...Florida and Arizona will be our future.

I have always found history to be a teacher. And so early in the pandemic, I read a book by John Berry called The Great Influenza. It's about the catastrophic Spanish Flu of 1918. He wrote an article yesterday that puts our current reality into sobering perspective:¹⁴

"This is our second chance. We won't get a third. If we don't get the growth of this pandemic under control now, in a few months, when the weather turns cold and forces people to spend more time indoors, we could face a disaster that dwarfs the situation today."

Ohio is sliding -- sliding down a very dangerous path, with our once flattened-curve starting to sharpen and spike.

This worrisome, disturbing reversal of our progress is a jarring reminder of just how quickly our fate can change.

A matter of weeks can change our trajectory.

Weeks can alter our future.

Weeks can change our lives.

Weeks can be the difference between who lives and who dies in Ohio.

We must act -- and we must act now!

This is not a drill.

This is not a hoax.

¹¹ State-level Data by Report Date, as compiled by the COVID Tracking Project, https://covidtracking.comdata.download.

¹² https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/state-timeline/new-confirmed-cases/arizona.

¹³ State-level Data by Report Date, as compiled by the COVID Tracking Project, https://covidtracking.comdata.download.

¹⁴ https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/14/opinion/coronavirus-shutdown.html.

This is not a dress rehearsal.

It's the real thing.

The enemy is here -- and Ohioans have simply come too far in this fight to cede ground now.

My fellow Ohioans, you have changed history with this virus before -- and you can do it again -- but our window of opportunity may soon be closing.

As we have seen in Florida, California, Arizona, and Texas, once things start moving, they move very quickly -- and it is so very hard then to turn things back around.

My fellow Ohioans -- you -- all of us together -- have the power to change our future.

This is a defining time -- THE defining time -- for each one of us. And there has been no greater call in recent times for Ohioans than for us to call upon our "better angels," as President Abraham Lincoln said, and do what is right to protect each other.

Ohioans have always been a people, who have been willing to sacrifice today for a better tomorrow.

I am asking each of you tonight to take action now -- to sacrifice now -- so our kids can be in school this fall...

So, they can at least have a chance to play sports...

So, our businesses can remain open...

So that Ohioans can continue earning a living and a paycheck and support their families...

What am I asking you to do?

Let's start with masks. I am asking each one of you, wherever you live in Ohio -- whatever the alert color of your county -- to wear a mask when you go out in public.

Some may still question the wisdom of wearing masks, but as we used to say when I was a prosecuting attorney, "The jury is back. The verdict is in."

There is a broad consensus today in the medical, health, and business communities that masks are critical.

Yesterday, Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said,

"If all of us would put on a face covering now for the next four weeks, six weeks, we could drive this epidemic to the ground." ¹⁵

Wearing masks is also our best way to protect Ohio jobs.

A recent Goldman Sachs report shows that wearing face masks can be viewed as an alternative to lockdowns. They found, that in most cases, within a couple of weeks of people consistently wearing facemasks, there was a slowdown in the spread of the virus. Further, the study suggests that to curb the spread of the virus as successfully as wearing face masks does, we would have to consider a lockdown that essentially would subtract five percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.¹⁶

But masks are not enough.

Let's be honest, all of us have started to let our guard down. I know sometimes I have. We're tired. We want to go back to the way things were – and that's very understandable.

But when we do, we are playing Russian Roulette with our lives.

Good decisions will protect the economy and save lives. Reckless ones will hurt and kill.

These are tough questions, but ask yourselves: Will that family reunion be worth it if your grandmother later tests positive for COVID and dies?

Will that neighborhood cookout be worth it if your neighbor ends up alone, on a ventilator, in intensive care?

Will that play date be worth it, if the kids can't go back to school in the fall?

We're all tired of being cooped up. I know your kids want to be with their friends. And, Fran and I know our grandchildren certainly do.

But, what's better? Knowing you did all you could to keep your family and neighbors safe and our economy open -- or taking risks that lead to illness, death, and another economic shutdown?

Don't we all want to be around to meet our future children and grandchildren not yet born? To attend their Baptisms? To watch our kids and grandkids graduate from school? To attend their future weddings?

¹⁵ https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/07/15/covid-19-california-testing-moderna-vaccine-best-buy-requires-masks/5436928002/.

¹⁶ Face Masks and GDP: Goldman Sachs, https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/face-masks-and-gdp.html.

This virus will end. It will end! And we all want to be around when it does, so we can enjoy life, enjoy our families, and enjoy our friends.

None of us can do this, alone. In words often attributed to Ronald Reagan, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." ¹⁷

These are once-in-a-hundred-years sacrifices -- short-term inconveniences, for long-term freedoms.

In his January 1941 State of the Union Address to Congress, President Franklin Roosevelt began to make his case to end the isolation policies that emerged following World War I. He spoke of America's need to sacrifice in times of crisis -- and the unity that comes with a nation's collective actions. Here is what said:

"No one can tell the exact character of the emergency situations that we may be called upon to meet. The nation's hands must not be tied when the nation's life is in danger. [All of us] must prepare to make the sacrifices that the emergency -- almost as serious as war, itself -- demands. . . . Our strength is our unity of purpose...[and] to that high concept, there can be no end save victory. ¹⁸

Our state's life is now in danger -- and our own strength lies in our unity of purpose.

Early in this pandemic, Ohioans came together. You showed extraordinary kindness, care, compassion your families, friends, neighbors, and strangers, alike.

You rose to the occasion.

You answered the call.

I am calling on all Ohioans to once again unite.

This virus is real.

It is killing our family members, our friends, our co-workers.

We must take the long-view in our response to it and remember that Ohioans have always been a strong, determined, resilient people, who, time and time again, have overcome adversity and beat the odds.

From the Native Americans, who created intricate and massive earthworks...

To the pioneers, who navigated their way along the Ohio River and constructed the National Road...

¹⁷https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Ronald Reagan.

¹⁸ https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/PDFFiles/FDR%20-%20Four%20Freedoms.pdf.

To the abolitionists and African Americans, who worked together to create an underground railroad leading those in slavery to freedom...

To the immigrants, who built our cities...

To the African Americans and those from Appalachia, who migrated to Ohio to work, raise a family, and start a better life...

At the start of this pandemic, Ohioans set the example for the rest of our country. Though this has been a trying time for all Ohioans, you showed the world what was possible when people work together!

You showed the world our Ohio grit!

I remain an optimist and truly believe that we will rise out of the great tragedy of this virus and all it has laid bare. Positive things will come out of our struggle -- American and Ohio ingenuity, innovation, and creativity; deeper relationships with family and friends; and a stronger, renewed sense of community and our obligations to one other.

Out of this struggle, we will learn.

And, we will emerge stronger, better, and more resilient.

As the Bible tells us in Galatians, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season, we will reap -- if we do not give up."

Ohioans never give up.

And Ohioans will not grow weary of doing good and helping to protect each other.

We are Buckeyes.

We are strong.

And we will not relent, as we forge a path forward -- united -- in building Ohio's future.

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Case No(s). 20-0599-GE-UNC, 20-0856-EL-AEC, 20-0857-EL-RDR

Summary: App for Rehearing Application for Rehearing Regarding PUCO Order on Duke Energy Ohio's Temporary Plan Addressing Consumer Protection During the Coronavirus Emergency by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed by Ms. Deb J. Bingham on behalf of Michael, William J. Mr.