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Gary E. Vigorito Secretary Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43266-0573

Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ///3

Case Nos. 94-987-GA-AIR, 96-11-3-GA-ATA & 98-222-GA-GCR

Dear Secretary Vigorito:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") with information related to the proceedings referenced above. specifically, this letter addresses the Third Amendment to Joint Stipulation and Recommendation in Case No. 94-987-GA-AIR and Amendment to Joint Stipulation and Recommendation in Case No. 96-113-GA-ATA ("1999 Stipulation").

The 1999 Stipulation is another installment in the progress documented by the orders and agreements contained in the above-referenced cases. Members of the Industrial Energy Users-Ohio ("IEU-OH"), including Central Soya Company, Inc., Owens Corning and The Timken Company, support this progress. While the more recent aspects of this progress do not directly affect larger natural gas consumers, they strongly support efforts to provide all energy customers with meaningful access to the benefits of effective competition.

The broad and diverse support for the 1999 Stipulation is encouraging and entitled to great weight. The Commission should adopt the 1999 Stipulation and continue progress during the implementation of the 1999 Stipulation. This approach will ensure that the 1999 Stipulation promotes the policy in Section 4929.02, Revised Code.

Respectfully submitted.

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