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To: Governor Ted Strickland
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator George Voinovich
Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones

07-829-GA-AER

Dear Governor Strickland, Senator Brown, Senator Voinovich and Representative Tubbs Jones,

I am writing to you with regard to the Dominion East Ohio Gas rate hearings that are taking place right now. A main objective of the hearings is to allow Dominion East Ohio Gas to make across-the-board rate hikes that would increase fixed customer fees (those related to such things as pipe maintenance, prospecting for natural gas, delivery of natural gas, etc.). (See copy of item from Cleveland Plain Dealer regarding hearings at bottom of letter.)

The proposed fee hike is outrageous, first because, in and of itself, a 300-plus percent fee hike is far too high. The gas company, realizing that building and every person/family must be "hooked up" to gas, has proposed this fee hike for no other reason than to gouge the public.

But the fee hike is also outrageous because it will create a significant hardship for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans, who, like myself, live in an apartment and, because heat is included in the cost of rent, only use gas for cooking. As an example of what I'm saying, my last gas bill, total, was only \$14.54, well below the fixed customer fee Dominion East Ohio Gas wants to charge before it adds on the a base rate cost for gas used.

With the proposed fee hike, Dominion East Ohio Gas would be making an obscene - yes, obscene - profit on natural gas used by people who live in apartments, while not delivering even a 1% increase in service (and the hike is, in essence, a service fee.)

Please do all you can to see that the fee increases that are granted to Dominion East Ohio Gas are based on true (verses greed-generated) need and sound information.

Sincerely, Eileen Beal, MA



P.S. Please forgive this "group" letter, but I wanted you to see the other government servants to whom I am writing.

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