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### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and the Toledo Edison Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to ORC Section 4920.143 in the Form of an Electric Security Plan	) Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO ) ) ) )
In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and the Toledo Edison Company for Approval of a Market Rate Offer to Conduct a Competitive Bidding Process for Standard Service, Offer Electric General Supply, Accounting Modifications Associated with Reconciliation Mechanism and Tariffs for Generation Service	) Case No. 08-936-EL-SSO ) ) ) ) ) ) )

# MOTION TO INTERVENE OF THE COUNCIL OF SMALLER ENTERPRISES (COSE)

The Council of Smaller Enterprises ("COSE") hereby moves to intervene in the abovecaptioned proceeding pursuant to Section 4903.221, Revised Code, and Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code. As more fully discussed in the accompanying memorandum, COSE submits that it has a real substantial interest in this proceeding and that its participation in this proceeding will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved. COSE further submits that its interest is not represented by any existing party and that granting its motion to intervene will not unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice any existing party.

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Wherefore, COSE respectfully requests that its motion to intervene in this proceeding be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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## COSE's MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE

From the standpoint of both the substantive merits and timeliness of its request, COSE respectfully submits that it is entitled to intervene in these proceedings.

## I. Background

The Council of Smaller Enterprises ("COSE"), Northeast Ohio's largest small business support organization, strives to help small businesses grow and maintain their independence. Comprised of more than 17,000 member companies, COSE has a long history of fighting for the rights of all small business owners, whether it's through group purchasing programs in healthcare, workers' compensation, payroll services, shipping, or advocating for specific changes in legislation or regulation. COSE also produces more than 100 networking and business education events each year - all focused on connecting our members to each other to increase their ability to succeed.

COSE, a certified Competitive Retail Electric Service Provider, started a group electric aggregation program for our members in 1999. Since that time, we have enrolled more than 1700 electric accounts and are saving our members more than \$1 million annually on their electricity costs. In addition, we provide a variety of informational and educational resources to help small businesses better understand today's energy market to all of our 17,000 members in Northeast Ohio. The COSE Electric Program serves members within the FirstEnergy service territory.

On July 31, 2008, the Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and the Toledo Edison Company (FirstEnergy) filed an application to establish a standard service offer in the form of an electric security plan pursuant to Section 4928.143 of the Ohio Revised Code. These filings were completed pursuant to the provisions outlined in Amended Substitute Senate Bill 221. COSE's entire membership and its aggregation program in particular will be greatly impacted by these proceedings.

## II. Legal Standard

For purposes of considering a request for leave to intervene in a Commission proceeding,

OAC 4901-1-11(A) provides that:

Upon timely motion, any person shall be permitted to intervene in a proceeding upon showing that ...

(2) The person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding, and the person is so situated that the disposition of the proceeding may, as a practical matter, impair or impede his or her ability to protect that interest, unless the person's interest is adequately represented by existing parties. Further, RC § 4903.221 (B) and OAC 4901-1-11(B) provide that the Commission, in

ruling upon applications to intervene in its proceedings, shall consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervener's interest; (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervener and its probable relation to the merits of the case; (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervener will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings; (4) Whether the prospective intervener will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

OAC 4901-1-11(B) also provides that an additional factor in considering a request to

intervene will be the extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties.

## III. Argument

COSE clearly meets the requirements for intervention as outlined above. COSE's ability to continue offering small businesses energy-related cost-savings through the electric program is dependent upon this proceeding. Without appropriate consideration of small commercial users, small businesses will be faced with higher energy costs that could prove a hazard for their business.

As stated, COSE is an active electric aggregator in Northeast Ohio and takes into consideration the special needs and unique circumstances of small businesses in the region. The proposals in this case will impact the ability for COSE to continue offering an electric program to its members. Therefore, COSE has a real and substantial interest in this manner.

As a true representative of small businesses, COSE's knowledge will assist the Commission in considering the issues in this case and, accordingly, COSE's participation will positively contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the issues as they relate to small commercial customers. No other party is able to adequately represent the needs of these customers. Accordingly, COSE welcomes the ability to share their program experiences and unique small business perspectives with the Commission as it works with the utility and others to develop effective outcomes for this case.

COSE's participation will not result in undue delay nor will it unjustly prejudice any existing party. Therefore, given the diverse and unique energy needs of its members, and in order to protect the interests of small commercial customers in the state, COSE states that is has a direct, real and substantial interest in the issues in this matter, which can only be protected by its participation.

## **IV.** Conclusion

For the reasons discussed herein, COSE respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Motion to Intervene with the full powers, rights and privileges granted by the Commission, by statute and by the provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code, to intervening parties.

Respectfully submitted,

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene of The Council of Smaller Enterprises

(COSE) has been forwarded by regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September,

2008, to:

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