



SOUTHGATE CORPORATION

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PUCO

Alan Schriber, Chairman PUCO
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

October 8, 2008

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Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

Re: Docket Numbers:

Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO

Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Schriber:

I am writing this letter to you to express my support for AEP Ohio's Electric Security Plan (ESP). Southgate Corporation is a real estate development company which has developed industrial properties in central Ohio for over 40 years. We have developed four industrial parks in the Central Ohio area, all served by AEP.

In 1968 Southgate began developing speculative industrial buildings for manufacturing use. AEP was an excellent partner for us, mainly because they recognized the importance of bringing new manufacturing companies to Ohio. It was a joint effort on the part of the community, AEP and Southgate to find companies to locate in these buildings. Our largest park, the Newark Ohio Industrial Park, has grown to 600 acres and now includes 47 buildings employing 4,800 people. This development is an example of what can be done to expand Ohio's manufacturing employment if we use the resources and talents available to us.

As I understand it, if AEP Ohio's ESP is approved, AEP will fund \$75 million through the "Partnership in Ohio" proposal that will assist:

- Low Income Customers
- Economic Development Efforts
- Energy efficiency and advanced technology development and deployment

AEP Ohio is a vital partner in growing Ohio's economy. As an industrial real estate developer, I recognize the importance of having AEP Ohio as an active participant in economic development. Quite honestly, their diminished involvement in recent years has been greatly missed. AEP Ohio's "Partnership with Ohio" plan will allow AEP Ohio to renew its active economic development efforts working in partnership with government, business and community leaders. AEP Ohio will expand their economic development efforts through increased levels of funding for local economic development organizations and financial assistance for projects that create and retain jobs and investment in Ohio.

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Chairman Schriber
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Ohio is in a vulnerable economic position right now and we need all the resources available to restore Ohio to an economic powerhouse. I believe granting AEP Ohio's Electric Security Plan request is a step in the right direction for Ohio and I urge you to support their request. We need their help to expand Ohio's manufacturing employment and this plan opens the door for them to get involved again.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. O'Neill", with a large, sweeping flourish above it.

Robert E. O'Neill
President

cc: Governor Strickland
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108