## FILE

Fairfield County Economic Development William R. Arnett

Director

October 8, 2008

Board Board

**Board of County Commissioners** 

Mike Kiger Commissioner Jon D. Myers

Commissioner

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Mr. Alan R. Schriber, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street

180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 OCT 1 0 2008

Office of Chairman P.U.C.O.

Dear Chairman Schriber:

I am writing to express my support for AEP Ohio's Electric Security Plan (ESP), which has been filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Docket Numbers: Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO and Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO).

I have reviewed the plan thoroughly, and based on my economic development experience believe AEP Ohio's ESP will bring positive growth to our state's economy. My conclusion is based on several factors.

- The AEP Ohio ESP provides a phased-in approach to higher costs, thus allowing Ohio businesses to plan for the increase. Despite proposed rate increases, AEP Ohio will remain the lowest cost electric utility provider in the state.
- The AEP Ohio ESP, through its Partnership with Ohio, provides \$75 million in shareholder contributions to assist low-income customers, and support economic development and energy efficiency initiatives for residential and commercial customers.

I have had the pleasure since 1995 to work with AEP personnel on economic development projects. The company has been and remains a tremendously valuable partner for local economic development organizations. The ESP and its Partnership with Ohio is another example of AEP's commitment to helping Ohio's economy grow.

Sincerely.

Date Processed -

William R. Arnett

Director

Cc: Tim Schaffer, Senator, 31st District

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Gerald Stebelton, State Representative, 5th District

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