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# STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## RECEIVED

November 14, 2008

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Office of Chairman  
P.U.C.O.

Dr. Alan R. Schriber  
PUCO – Chairman  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215



County Office Building  
110 Central Plaza South, Suite 240  
Canton, Ohio 44702-2202  
Phone: (330) 451-7371  
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tom Harmon, President  
Todd Bosley  
Jane Vignos

08-917-EL-SSO  
PUCO

2008 DEC -2 PM 3:46

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Dear Dr. Schriber:

The recommendation of your staff to cut American Electric Power's proposed rate increase is heartening and certainly a step in the right direction to ensure financial stability for Ohio's electric consumers. However, the front-loading recommended by the staff would have devastating effects on our area's residents and businesses.

As we understand it, the PUCO staff is recommending against the AEP request to raise rates 15 percent per year for three years, which when compounded would amount to a 52 percent increase after three years. As we noted in our previous letter and resolution objecting to the AEP proposal, this demand is outrageous in such a harsh economic climate.

We note that your staff is recommending that our area – the Ohio Power Division of AEP – receive rate increases of 24 percent in 2009, 2 percent in 2010 and 2 percent in 2011. It is our contention that a 24 percent rate increase in the first year would be devastating to our already reeling economy. It also is illogical compared to almost any other proposed rate hike proposed by other, non-monopolistic consumer or business providers.

Furthermore, we note your staff is recommending that a major component of AEP's plan – the cost of distributing energy – be handled in a separate rate proposal and hearing next year. Such an additional proposal and increase, combined with the result of your January action, could have an even more egregious impact on our residents and businesses.

We again thank you for listening to the residents of Ohio, and we urge you to mitigate your staff's recommendation by reducing their recommended first year increase, ever-while keeping that decision in mind if you plan to rule separately on a distribution proposal.

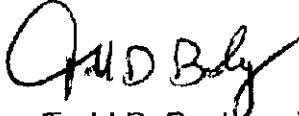
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Technician SM Date Processed DEC 02 2008

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter.

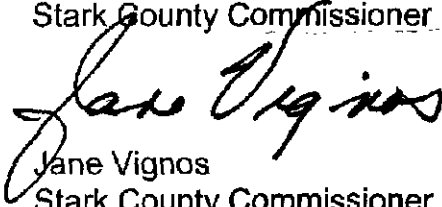
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Harmon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Harmon – President  
Stark County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd D. Bosley", with a large, stylized initial "T".

Todd D. Bosley – Vice President  
Stark County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Vignos", with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jane Vignos  
Stark County Commissioner