

Sandra Stabile Harwood State Representative 65th House District

> Chairperson Judiciary Committee

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review

Insurance Committee

Aging and Disability Services Committee February 6, 2009

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attn: Alan Schriber, Chairman

Re: Case No. 09-80-EL-AEC Application for Reasonable Rate Arrangement Between the Ohio Edison Company and V&M Star

Dear Chairman Schriber:

It is my understanding that an application for a reasonable arrangement for electricity between Ohio Edison and a company located in Mahoning County, V and M Star (V&M), has been filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The application number is referenced above. V&M is a producer of seamless pipe with an Ohio plant which borders my district in Trumbull County. The company currently employs 465 employees at the facility.

The company is planning an expansion into part of my district in Girard, Ohio, located in Trumbull County. The V&M expansion would include an estimated \$835 million in capital investment which would bring an additional 250-300 direct jobs with an increase in indirect jobs of up to 122. V&M also estimated that about 400 construction related jobs will result from the expansion. Trumbull County leads Ohio in job loss, according to a recent study of the state's economy. This expansion would bring much needed employment to an area in Ohio that has been hard hit by the economy. I have been informed that the expansion plans are contingent upon the company's ability to secure a reasonable and predictable price that would justify expansion. The ability of V&M to move forward is predicated upon the company securing this before March 2, 2009.

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Many desperately needed jobs in my district and the Mahoning Valley are depended upon this application before your commission. I would appreciate full and fair consideration of this application in an expedited manner in order to meet the deadline for the company to move forward would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, andra Stabile Harwood

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