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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## TIM RYAN

## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES 17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

February 17, 2009

Alan R. Schriber
Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Case Number: 09-80-EL-AEC/V&M Star

Dear Mr. Schriber:

As US Representatives for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts, we are writing to express our support for an application made by V&M Star, of Youngstown, Ohio, for a reasonable adjustment of the electric rate that they are charged by Ohio Edison (FE).

V&M is a producer of seamless pipe for the oil and gas industries. They currently employ 465 people at their Ohio facility, with an additional 120 people employed through third party contracts.

The company is considering an \$835 million capital investment in the facility that would bring an additional 250 to 300 direct hires to the firm, and an additional increase of indirect jobs of 122 people. Additionally, they estimate that approximately 400 construction jobs would result from the expansion. These are high wage positions that include a strong benefit package.

Clearly, in these difficult economic times, it is imperative that the public sector do everything possible to support job creation in the state. That is particularly true in the Mahoning Valley, which continues to work to rebuild its economy.

It our understanding that V&M will soon make a determination on the final site for this expansion project and hopes to have an answer on the rate application by March 2, 2009. We hope that your agency will be able to act quickly and in a favorable manner in order to keep the project moving forward.

197 West Market Street Warren, OH 44481 330-373-0074 330-373-0098 FAX 241 FEDERAL PLAZA WEST YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503 330-740-0193 330-740-0182 FAX 1030 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE AKRON, OH 44310 330-630-7311 330-630-7314 FAX

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TOLL-FREE: 1-800-856-4152 WWW.HOUSE.GOV/TIMRYAN Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

Member of Congress (OH-17)

Charlie Wilson

Member of Congress (OH-06)

C: Governor Ted Strickland

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher

Renee Jenkins, Director, Administration Department, PUCO