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NLCI
LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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

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To Whom It May Concern:

NLCI Land Management began 28 years ago with me and my partner as Nair's Lawn Care. Today we are a multi-service company providing landscaping and snow plowing for businesses, municipalities and individual residents. We have, over the years, grown to a much larger size than we are now. Landscape services, for the most part, are considered by especially the residential market, a 'luxury' item; our years in business, our professionalism, our expertise, is sometimes not as important to today's purchaser, whether city, business or individual, as price.

Landscapers have as a business group and certainly I can speak for my business, has shrunk dramatically as a result of the downturn in the economy. When we were notified of more stringent regulations that were imposed on us due to the state of Ohio needing to comply with Federal regulations, based on a much smaller vehicle than earlier, we were floored. How do we accommodate this influx of regulations and the accompanying costs to implement them, into our already-reduced budget?

We understand that Ohio wants to ensure the continued stream of federal grants for motor carrier safety, but at what price? Does Ohio want to lose even more small businesses? Can the state afford additional unemployment benefits paid to more laid-off workers? At a time when the most unlikely people are applying to my company for positions normally filled by college students and landscape technicians, how can the state of Ohio ask me to fold yet another division of my company due to the high cost of regulation compliance?

As a long time member of various professional organizations, Ohio Landscape Association being one of them, I respectfully request the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to request a variance from the Federal government, if necessary, or at least appeal to them, to allow for waivers for the smaller businesses. We have no 'stockbrokers' who can absorb these added expenses through smaller dividends. The imposition of these new rules and the enforcement penalties will cut so deep into our companies' bottom line that many of us will be forced to think seriously about remaining the employers of Ohio residents. The road rules may be funded for enforcement, but chances are the small businessmen will not be using those roads.

Sincerely,

Roger Nair,
NLCI Owner

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