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PUCO

Mount Vernon

Chairman Todd A. Snitchler
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

December 13, 2011

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

Mount Vernon is in AEP Ohio's service area. As a community whose residents just voted to approve a governmental aggregation program, we are genuinely concerned that the proposed settlement of AEP's Electric Security Plan (ESP) will effectively bring this type of discount program to an end for the next few years.

The proposed settlement includes unreasonable provisions which serve as caps or limitations on shopping and will limit the number of residents allowed to switch electric suppliers each year. Once this cap is hit, our community – and others like ours – will be effectively shut out from enjoying any savings. Hundreds of other Ohio communities in neighboring utilities are receiving savings through their aggregation programs. Why are we being penalized for being AEP customers? And why should AEP be able to dictate which groups of residents and businesses are allowed to save money on their electric bills?

It is the policy of Ohio to ensure effective competition in the provision of electric service and it is the PUCO's mission to facilitate an environment that provides competitive choices. We ask that you encourage large-scale governmental aggregation as required by Ohio law by rejecting or significantly altering this settlement agreement to remove the caps. However, if the shopping caps are going to be implemented, we propose that governmental aggregation communities be exempted from the caps.

Our community can obtain significant savings on our electric generation supply because other generation suppliers are competing for the business. It's apparent that AEP is attempting to prevent competitive suppliers from serving customers in their service area. And if they are successful, the people and businesses in communities like Mount Vernon will miss out on these savings. Other communities in Ohio have this opportunity to save and so should we.

Please docket this letter in AEP Ohio's ESP case number 11-346-EL-SSO.

Sincerely,

Richard Mavis
Mayor, Mount Vernon

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