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October 4, 2012

Mr. Todd Snitchler, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
80 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

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PUCO

Reference: ASHTA Reasonable Arrangement (PUCO Case No. 12-1494-EL-AEC)

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

I write today to express my support for ASHTA Chemicals reasonable arrangement currently pending before the PUCO. As a major employer in Ashtabula County, ASHTA makes a significant annual contribution to our local economy. In fact, ASHTA contributes more than eight million dollars annually towards our economy in wages and benefits for its employees while also paying more than \$500,000.00 in state and local taxes that support our community.

With the approval of this reasonable arrangement, I am told that ASHTA will invest more than \$50 million dollars in new manufacturing that will not only provide for an environmentally sound process but also allow for the investment of new technology that will permit ASHTA to remain competitive in our global economy. In addition, the \$50 million dollars in new investment will provide jobs through local contractors who perform the construction work.

The most critical component necessary to sustain the viability of this company is the provision of affordable electricity in order to permit the important development for our area. Quite simply, failure to provide for affordable power could lead to closure of this facility which would serve as another devastating blow to our economy.

Thus, I hope that the PUCO would look favorable upon ASHTA's reasonable arrangement. The addition of forty million dollars in capital investment will provide substantial benefits for years to come to our region and our state. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Randall G. Darling, Sr.
President
Ayrshire, Inc.

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