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PUCO

October 8, 2012

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

Re: Case #12-1494-EL-ACE

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

I have recently learned that ASHTA Chemicals has filed for a reasonable arrangement with First Energy so as to ensure its long term commitment to Ashtabula County and the State of Ohio. With over one hundred employees who account for an annual payroll of more than \$8 million, ASHTA is one of the major employers in our area. In fact, ASHTA has committed that with the approval of this reasonable arrangement, ASHTA will expend approximately \$50 million in new capital investment to institute state of the art manufacturing technology and retain more than 90 full time well-paying jobs in our community.

With its corporate offices and manufacturing based in Ashtabula, in addition to the well-paying employment opportunities, ASHTA contributes nearly \$500,000 a year in support of our local communities through its payment of state and local taxes in Ohio. It is my understanding that in order for ASHTA to continue to grow, maintain and modernize its manufacturing facility here in town, a reasonable arrangement must be approved by PUCO.

In these challenging economic times, it is critical that we work together to retain and create jobs wherever we can. As a representative of Ashtabula County, my deeply held concern is that without the approval of this proposal by the PUCO that ASHTA simply will not invest in our region and our state and in turn make investment decisions elsewhere.

Therefore it is my hope that you and the PUCO will approve this application. The investment that could occur by ASHTA will provide a much needed boost for our economy. Thank you for your consideration of my request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Kister, Jr
President
Witt Enterprises, Inc.

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