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PUCO

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From: webmaster@puc.state.oh.us  
To: ContactThePUCO  
Subject: 71441  
Received: 12/16/2012 3:18:02 PM  
Message:  
WEB ID: 71441 AT:12-16-2012 at 03:17 PM

Related Case Number:

TYPE: comment

NAME: Mr. James Heironimus

CONTACT SENDER ? No

MAILING ADDRESS:

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INDUSTRY:Other

ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

- *(no utility company name provided?)*
- *(no account name provided?)*
- *(no service address provided?)*
- *(no service phone number provided?)*
- *(no account number provided?)*

COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

I find it absolutely disturbing that PUCO continues down the road toward deregulation of gas and electric utilities. Even under your "regulatory" watch, AEP has made repeated efforts to increase rates despite posting major profits – deregulation will not improve the situation. The only thing keeping our utility bills close to reasonable are regulatory restraints with the customers' interests in focus. Despite a breathtaking lack of evidence in the nation that deregulation of utilities creates a truly competitive market that serves the customers, the opposite

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occurring in the states that have deregulated, PUCO continues to give signals that it's coming. Utilities are not appropriate for typical business models in which competition is spontaneous and benefits the customers. Unlike most other industries, utilities offer a very limited selection of "products" – principally gas, water, electricity, sewage and waste disposal. These products don't offer much room for competitive improvements (e.g., there's only so much you can do to improve natural gas), and few true source providers for these services that everybody (private and business) needs (with proud exceptions for some of these as exhibited by our Amish brethren). PUCO is supposed to be an advocate for the "public" (otherwise, the name should be changed to "UCO"), but it has progressively behaved as a tool for the utility industry in recent years. This push for deregulation in the sheep's clothing of "reform" is made without any substantive basis that it represents a public good.