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JACK CERA
State Representative
House District 96

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PUCO

August 28, 2013

Ms. Barcy McNeal, Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Ormet Primary Aluminum Corporation, Case No. 09-119-EL-AEC

This letter is written on behalf of the Ormet Aluminum Plant in Monroe County which is a very important employer in my district. Recently, the PUCO granted Ormet a deferral of approximately 10.5 million dollars in payments to AEP. Let me take this opportunity to thank you, as I believe it is an important first step in turning the company around from bankruptcy.

It is my belief that we all must work together to keep this facility open and operating at its full potential. Simply put, this area of our state will suffer another blow to its economic well being, families will be devastated, and the school district will be negatively impacted should the facility close.

As you probably know, JobsOhio, encouraged Ormet to develop a sound business plan to move forward. This includes construction of a gas fired electric generating facility that will meet their energy needs for the future and help them be a viable company. The employees provided concessions worth millions of dollars and the retirees also sacrificed to help the company survive.

There is a long history between Ormet and AEP and I understand that not all of that history has been pleasant. However, I believe it is in the best interest of both parties and the state of Ohio to come to a solution that keeps Ormet operating. Electricity in the aluminum business is more than just about keeping the lights on, it is a primary raw material in the production process.

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Committees:

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ranking Member
Policy and Legislative Oversight
Public Utilities

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As I stated earlier, I believe we must all work together on behalf of the Ormet employees and their families, the AEP ratepayers, and for the economic well-being of our State. The closing of this facility will be crippling to the economy of eastern Ohio. Should Ormet liquidate, it is likely AEP will request rate relief from the PUCO for losing its largest, single customer. Therefore, AEP ratepayers will be hit with the cost of ORMET's power whether it is operating or not. To me, it makes more sense to assist an operating plant than a closed one. It is with these thoughts in mind that I respectfully urge your consideration in granting Ormet the opportunity to purchase their power at a reasonable rate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Cera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Jack" and "Cera" being capitalized and prominent.

JACK CERA

State Representative

96th House District

JC/pdw