Sept. 30th, 2014

To Whom It May Concern at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio,

I have recently been made aware of an impending plan to help fund Duke Energy and First Energy's outdated and unsustainable coal plants by increasing consumers' energy use rates statewide. As someone who is concerned about the health of our environment and clean air for Ohio, I cannot in good conscience quietly acquiesce to the promotion of the failing status quo by way of fleecing the people of this state. It is my hope that worthwhile alternatives may be found to the furthering of the coal industry – not to mention other nonrenewable fossil fuel sources – so that we may proudly find our way to a greener, more sustainable economy and ecology for Ohioans.

I like to do my part for cleaner energy by making my commute to work by bicycle, and using my car only on very rare occasions. I hope that I might one day live a completely car-free lifestyle, which the constant improvements to the infrastructure and ideology of the city of Cincinnati could one day make very possible. This is not only an ecologically friendly approach, but a very sound economic one as well. I only pay to fill my car's gas tank *maybe* once every two months, at most. I even helped to build the city's new fleet of bike-share "Red Bikes," which will hopefully help others in the city to embrace alternative means of transportation.

To be forced to support expensive and tired old coal plants smacks of lobbyist support at its worst, when an ever-increasing number of Ohio's citizens (and indeed US citizens overall) are clamoring for better ways to harness and produce energy that won't leave us all stranded and bankrupt in the next few decades. To bail out Duke and First Energy seems like a mere band-aid solution to a problem that has the potential to wound us all far more deeply than such a minor fix could ever help to heal. Please listen to the voices of the Ohioans who want better, more sustainable solutions to be found. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this issue as deeply as its possible impact merits.

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With regards,

Stephen Cumberworth

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