The Honorable John Kasich Governor of Ohio Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6117 PUCO

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## **Dear Governor Kasich:**

On behalf of Smithfield Township, we're urging your support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*.

FirstEnergy's plan will help ensure the continued operation of a major employer in the Ohio Valley, the W.H. Sammis Plant, a 2,200-megawatt baseload power generating facility in Stratton, Ohio. It will also protect customers from long-term retail price hikes.

As of today, the long-term viability of this plant – along with the substantial economic benefits it delivers to our community and others – may be at risk. You may be aware that power generators like FirstEnergy have been challenged in recent years by regulatory issues and market pressures that have led to the closing of many of Ohio's largest power plants, and more plant retirements are expected.

The Sammis plant plays a significant role in sustaining our local economy. The plant directly employs more than 400 people with an annual payroll of \$34 million. Many of these employees live in our township. FirstEnergy is also the largest taxpayer in Jefferson County, with the plant expected to generate about \$5.5 million in annual property tax revenues to local jurisdictions in 2014. The Sammis plant also supports the local economy with millions of dollars each year in vendor purchases, employee spending and property ownership.

We truly appreciate FirstEnergy's continued investment in our community, and hope you will support this plan to help Ohio become more energy independent. In the meantime, we would appreciate it if your staff could docket this letter as part of the record in this proceeding (14-1297-EL-SSO).

Trustee

Date

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Trustee

Date

Fiscal Officer

Date

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Smithfield Township supports FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, Powering Ohio's Progress and

WHEREAS, FirstEnergy's Ohio utilities' proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*, will help keep electricity affordable and reliable in Smithfield Township and

WHEREAS, key provisions of *Powering Ohio's Progress* help safeguard Smithfield Township residents from electricity price volatility and increases in the future and

WHEREAS, *Powering Ohio's Progress* provides strong support to economic development efforts that can help Smithfield Township create jobs and attract new business growth and

WHEREAS, Powering Ohio's Progress supports the state's economic future by helping ensure that vital baseload power plants in Ohio remain available to serve electric customers in Smithfield Township and

WHEREAS, Powering Ohio's Progress retains local jobs, protects local tax revenues and helps support manufacturing and other industries in Smithfield Township and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, the TRUSTEES of Smithfield Township are pleased to endorse FirstEnergy Ohio utilities' proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*, which will help support the Smithfield Township economy and quality of life in the years ahead.

De Assal	10-6-84
Trustee	Date
Ronald Malu	10.6-14
Trustee	Date
Inch.	10-06-14
Trustee	Date
Kin M Boyle	10/6/14
Fiscal Officer	Date /