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## Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth

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November 7, 2014

Chairman Thomas W. Johnson  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43215

14-1693-EL-RDR

14-1694-EL-AAM

RE: AEP Power Purchase Agreement Case Numbers. 14-1693-EL-RDR and 14-1694-EL-AAM

Dear Chairman Johnson:

Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG), the JobsOhio network office for 25 counties in Southern, Southern Eastern and Eastern Ohio, supports AEP Ohio's Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) under consideration. The PPA would ensure continuity of AEP plants in the APEG region and provide stability in power pricing and supply.

APEG is the first ever regional economic development organization for Appalachian Ohio and we are actively working on projects that create jobs and investment in Ohio. Companies looking to locate a multi-million dollar investment seek stability in operating costs. Electric energy is a major location issue. The need for the continued operation of AEP generation plants from Jefferson to Clermont Counties is critical for the region and Ohio.

I am sure you have sufficient information on the number of jobs, payroll and taxes generated by these plants and their long history of supplying reliable, available and quality power to many Ohio residential, commercial and industry customers. The PPA will insure electric power will be there for business development, schools and homes in the future. The loss of these facilities would be a major blow to the region's economy as well as create significant difficulties attracting additional business investment in the area by creating uncertainties about reliability of the power supply and stability of power costs.

AEP Ohio's PPA's proposal is not a bailout as others suggest. It is a plan that protects Ohio's economy by keeping hundreds of Ohioans employed and millions of dollars of annual economic benefit in place while helping shield AEP Ohio's customers from market volatility. It is a good plan and I encourage you to approve the plan as it is filed in Case No. 14-1693-EL-RDR and Case No. 14-1694-EL-AAM. Please docket this letter in support of AEP Ohio's plan and as part of the record in this proceeding.

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Technician *SM*

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