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JEFFERSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

Economic development office serving Jefferson County, Ohio

November 18, 2014

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH. 43215-6117

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PUCO

Dear Governor Kasich:

I strongly urge your support of AEP Ohio's proposed Power Purchase Agreement. Ohio is facing a period of unprecedented uncertainty related to the future supply of low-cost reliable energy. The proposed PPA is designed to provide AEP Ohio customers long-term reliability and protect them from the impacts of significant price spikes, while preserving jobs and mitigating a shrinking tax base.

Since 2012, investor-owned utilities in Ohio have announced the retirement of over 5,500 MW of generation by mid-2015. The majority of these retirements were announced in response to new EPA regulations. However, current market conditions are such that even plants that will be environmentally compliant and are equipped to run reliably for many more years may be forced to shutter for economic reasons. As a result, Ohio will be a large importer of energy for the foreseeable future.

One of those plants is the Cardinal Plant in Brilliant, Jefferson County. This plant provides valuable employment and significant economic impacts. Last year alone, Cardinal employed 350 with an approximate income of \$25,133,600.00. In addition, it provided an economic benefit of \$1,800,000.00 in property taxes while generating more than 3,600,000 MWh of electricity for residents and businesses.

AEP Ohio's Power Purchase Agreement proposal is not a bailout as others would 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. The loss of this facility, which is efficient and environmentally compliant, is not in Ohio's best interest. Because these plants were originally built to serve Ohio, it is reasonable for AEP Ohio to re-dedicate the plants to provide ongoing economic benefits to Ohio customers. I hope you will encourage PUCO 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.

Sincerely,

Evan Scurti
Executive Director

cc: PUCO Chairman Thomas W. Johnson
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

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