

FILE



Gregory P. Kurtz
Mayor
Independence, Ohio

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2015 FEB -4 AM 10: 02

PUCO

January 28, 2015

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

Re: 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Johnson,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*, case number 14-1297-EL-SSO.

The City of Independence has approximately seven million square feet of office, retail and industrial space with nearly 1,000 businesses employing approximately 25,000 people. It is imperative for the business community I represent to have reliable and stable power; otherwise, it can be catastrophic to the business community, resulting in an adverse impact on productivity. *Powering Ohio's Progress* creates homegrown power that is reliable and stable.

In addition to its importance to existing businesses, reliable and stable power impacts the ability of the City to attract new companies. Without reliable and stable power, the City loses a fundamental component of business attraction, reducing our competitiveness and resulting in the loss of potential jobs in Northeast Ohio.

Powering Ohio's Progress will enhance service reliability and stability. Therefore, I respectfully ask for your support of FirstEnergy's Electric Security Plan.

Sincerely,

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Gregory P. Kurtz
Mayor

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician DMK Date Processed FEB 04 2015