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BROTHERHOOD OF
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FOURTH DISTRICT

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February 25, 2016

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Ohio PUCO
Continental Plaza
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PUCO

2016 FEB 29 PM 3:44

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The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers support AEP Ohio's request for a PPA.

We are Proud to work in the Electrical Industry in Ohio. AEP Ohio has submitted a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) for consideration by the PUCO which will protect customers against the possibility of loss of power capacity, ensure continued reliable service and provide price stability in a market that has been volatile and unsettling for many customers. The PPA will help level out the fluctuation in generating costs and prevent viable and necessary power plants from being shut down due to economic instability. These are valuable and environmentally compliant generating units. This is not a bailout as characterized by detractors working to confuse the issue.

Ohio's Electric Supply is Dwindling.

New EPA regulations and economic pressures are forcing the accelerated shutdown of many of Ohio's power generating plants. Stable, long-lived generating plants are at risk of early closure resulting in economic impact, job losses up to thousands by IBEW Workers, reliability challenges and even more price instability. This is happening because the current federally regulated market does not provide electric generators with stable or predictable revenues.

Thirty-eight generation units have shut down since 2012, while at the same time there has been no equal investment in construction of new power plants to offset these closings. Since 2007, only two new generating plants have been put into service in Ohio. Both of those are wind farms. Both plants are financed by Purchase Power Agreements – the very same mechanism that AEP Ohio has proposed to the PUCO.

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Without a PPA, AEP Ohio cannot support Ohio's electricity needs.

This impact goes further than electric price stability for Ohioans; there are significant job and economic impacts as well:

- Closures would result in skilled job losses directly and indirectly to thousands of Ohioans, including men and women of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1466 that work currently in the station as well as the men and women of Local 1105 that provides maintenance to the facility and new construction projects.
- The power plants in question provide strong economic impact, adding \$244 million to the state's income; and don't discount the economic impact in local communities such as small business owners and a good local tax base for schools and infrastructure to name a few, some of which are areas still reeling from the recession.

The PPA is an important part of delivering unmatched, and stable, service to our customers. It is greatly needed and worthy of your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Cooper", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom left of the signature.

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Vice President
IBEW Fourth District

KWC:kaw