

FILE STATE REPRESENTATIVE JACK CERA

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Committees:

Ways and Means, Ranking Member
Finance and Appropriations
Ag, Dev & Natural Resources Sub.
Ag and Rural Development

Website:

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August 10, 2016

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attn: Asim Haque, Chairman

Re: FirstEnergy ESP IV
Docket #: 14-1297-EL-SSO

RECEIVED DOCKETING UNIT
2016 AUG 16 AM 9:48
PUCO

Dear Chairman Haque:

On behalf of the constituents of the Ohio House District 96, I write to impress upon you the importance of having a safe, reliable and robust electric sector in Ohio for the well-being of all Ohioans and the Ohio's economic vitality.

FirstEnergy currently has a proposal before you that works to strengthen its commitment to modernizing the grid system. It will also improve economic development, low-income assistance, a clean energy future, and secures their corporate headquarters for years into the future. The PUCO unanimously approved FirstEnergy's plan in March 2016 resolving all of the issues in the case; however, now the primary provision remains pending on rehearing. I am respectfully asking you to quickly resolve this matter and provide certainty regarding the value provided under the plan. These solid commitments will bring greater service and reliability to customers and better position my district to attract and retain jobs.

As you know, the Sammis generating station located in my district employs 400 people with an annual payroll of over \$34 million. FirstEnergy pays \$5.5 million annually in property taxes. The numbers grow larger as you look indirect benefits from external contractors, household spending and property ownership.

FirstEnergy announced last week the closure of units 1-4 at Sammis. Moreover, Duke has already sold its Ohio generating units and American Electric Power has stated that it may sell its units rather than subject their company to the regulatory structure currently in place in Ohio. This is simply unacceptable.

Currently, Ohio law, as designed under Senate Bill 221 of the 128th General Assembly, provides the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio broad authority to implement strategies that are in the best interest of customers. This includes protecting existing generation, like Sammis, where possible and supporting Ohio corporate headquarters. I respectfully request that you utilize those tools to ensure that our utilities are financially sound. It is my belief that we, as public officials, must do all we can to ensure that the citizens of Ohio have access to a robust and reliable electric system.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Cera".

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JACK CERA
Assistant Minority Whip
Ohio House District 96

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