

FILE



**SENATOR
LOU GENTILE**
ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP
30TH DISTRICT

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Finance
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Financial Institutions
Rules and Reference
Transportation, Commerce, and Labor
Public Utilities

August 11, 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
2016 AUG 16 AM 9:48
PUCO

Dear Chairman Haque:

On behalf of the constituents of the 30th Senate District, 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 Ohio's economic vitality.

FirstEnergy currently has a proposal before you that works to strengthen its commitment to the modernizing of the grid system, 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, but now the primary provision remains pending on rehearing. Quick resolution of this matter will provide certainty regarding the value provided under the plan because the 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 senate district employs 350 people with an annual payroll of over \$34 million, and FirstEnergy pays \$5.5 million annually in property taxes. The job numbers grow larger as indirect benefits from external contractors, household spending, and property ownership are considered. The jobs sustained by this facility have a significant impact on the people, businesses, and communities of Jefferson County, and I remain committed to their success.

Ensuring that our electric system provides reliable, safe, and affordable energy to consumers is an important tool for attracting and retaining jobs in my district and the state of Ohio. It is important to me that we balance the needs of both the provider and the consumers during regulatory decisions, and create guidelines that encourage long-term economic growth.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of the proposal by First Energy.

Sincerely,

Senator Lou Gentile
Assistant Minority Whip
Senate District 30