

FILE

**Bernie Fischlowitz-Roberts**

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PUCO

January 2, 2018

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

RE: Case number 17-0334-EL-ATA (FirstEnergy)  
Case number 16-1852-EL-SSO (American Electric Power)  
Case number 15-1830-EL-AIR (Dayton Power & Light)  
Case number 17-0032-EL-AIR (Duke Energy)

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write in opposition to the four proposed significant increases in the customer charge on monthly utility bills. Increases in fixed rate charges unfairly punish consumers who use little energy, and add to the financial challenges already facing low-income households. In addition to the economic cost of higher bills for low-income and low-use consumers, the impacts of this change would severely hamper the ability of households to invest in energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy generation, including rooftop solar, by reducing the amount of money that such investments could save.

This proposed increase is essentially a bailout for these utilities, as they have invested too heavily in coal generation and not enough in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Rather than subsidizing utilities' bad business decisions, the PUC should act in the best interest of Ohio consumers by rejecting these proposals, and instead increasing investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy in our state.

Sincerely,



Bernie Fischlowitz-Roberts

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Technician As Date Processed 1/5/18

Abby Aresty  
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Abby Aresty