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August 28, 2018

Chairman Asim Z. Haque
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

RE: Case No. 16-0253-GA-BTX

Dear Chairman Haque,

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and we represent nearly 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. Founded in 1893, the Ohio Chamber is led by a volunteer board of directors that consists of 66 business leaders from all over the state.

Construction of the natural gas pipeline as proposed in Duke Energy Ohio's Central Corridor Pipeline Project application aligns with the mission of our organization. Natural gas is American-made energy, and in many cases today, Ohio-made. Ohio businesses, residents, and institutions depend upon natural gas as an affordable and reliable energy supply. Expanding and modernizing Ohio's natural gas distribution system improves customers' access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy. Furthermore, critical infrastructure projects grow industries and create jobs. This benefits all Ohioans.

In pursuit of completing their mission of providing customers with safe, reliable, affordable and ever-cleaner energy, public and private utility companies must continue to upgrade their infrastructure with modern construction materials and safer installation and monitoring practices. The Central Corridor Pipeline Project will do just that. By constructing the proposed pipeline, Duke Energy Ohio will improve, protect, and expand its natural gas delivery system capabilities for current and future customers in southwest Ohio. It will also allow Duke Energy Ohio to discontinue injecting propane into its distribution system during periods of high demand. While propane use is a safe and reasonable hedge against supply interruptions, this practice presents significant challenges to some businesses that rely on pure natural gas in their business operations or as power for their vehicle fleets.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce supports investments in our state that promote and protect businesses and that encourage economic development. We believe Duke Energy Ohio's Central Corridor Pipeline Project represents such an investment. As such, we ask that the Ohio Power Siting Board promptly approve the siting application for the project in Case No. 16-0253-GA-BTX.

Sincerely,

Zachary L. Frymier
Director, Energy and Environmental Policy
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

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