

FILE

April 16, 2019

Ohio Power Siting Board
Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Case Number: 16-253-GA-BTX

Case Title: In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the C314V Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project

To the Ohio Power Siting Board:

My name is John Tafaro and I am a resident of Hamilton County, Ohio. I attended the March 21, 2019 public hearing in Blue Ash pertaining to Duke Energy's proposed gas transmission pipeline, but chose not to give testimony, because of the highly charged, emotional, and volatile nature of the proceedings, and the aggressive nature of some of opponents of the project.

I am not an engineer, contractor, environmental or safety expert. I understand the concerns of the people who do not want this pipeline adjacent to, or even near, their property. I support this project, and my support is based on the assumption that the pipeline will be constructed, monitored and maintained in a safe and responsible manner, giving due consideration to the legitimate concerns of those affected. I also do not express a preference as to which route, of the two identified, should be chosen.

My personal and professional experience with Duke Energy, and its predecessor entities, has endured over four decades. In all cases, I have found Duke to be fair, reasonable, and always in support of the community. In all cases, safety is Duke's highest priority. I was involved in one redevelopment project in 2015 where the architect specified a new transformer in the parking lot. Duke rejected this spec, and insisted on a larger transformer, sited further from the building, substantially impacting the scarce parking available. We requested reconsideration, and were denied, with Duke unwilling to modify its requirements, based on safety concerns.

I can also attest to Duke's positive engagement in the community, having experienced first-hand on numerous occasions, Duke employees volunteering their time on service projects for non-profit entities. Some of the speakers opposing this project at the March 21 hearing, attributed possible racism and anti-Semitism to Duke's planned routes. Any such motivation on behalf of Duke would be contrary to my experience with the company and its employees, and this charge is, in my view, scurrilous and perhaps even defamatory.

Infrastructure must be maintained, expanded, and improved upon. I am involved in education and the preparation of individuals to enter the workforce. Duke has been a leader in economic development in the region, and a sound and expanding infrastructure is essential to maintaining the prospect of job growth and attracting new residents and jobs to Greater Cincinnati.

For these reasons, I support the proposed pipeline project.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Tafaro

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