



December 3, 2019

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

RE: 19-1920-EL-UNC

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments on the implementation of new rate schedules for county agricultural societies on behalf of the Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA). The OFMA is the statewide association representing Ohio's 95 county fairs, independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair.

As you surely know, county and independent fairs are the cornerstone event for many communities in the state. We are a showcase for Ohio's agriculture and 4-H programs, and we provide an opportunity for families to have fun together. Ohio has a long tradition of supporting county fairs and OFMA members pride themselves on offering a great event for their communities.

County fairs operate during the summer months, a time when energy bills are traditionally highest for all users. However, at other times throughout the year when fairs are not taking place, our members use considerably less electricity. Still, since our members use their highest amount of electricity during the peak summer months, many have noted that they are charged higher rates all year round to account for that peak demand during the short period of in-season time.

Recognizing this unique scenario, the Legislature passed legislation (House Bill 6) this year that restructured county fairs' rate schedules and designs. Utility companies have submitted their plans to comply with the new law and OFMA has had the opportunity to review those plans. While the plans are very complicated, our initial review suggests they do comply with the intent of HB 6, and will have the intended effect on energy rates for county fairs.

However, OFMA would like to reserve the right to submit additional comments as the rate plans are implemented should discrepancies between the law's intent and the plans' content arise. We want to ensure the legislative intent is honored and that Ohio fairs can continue to do the great work they do across the state.

Thank you for considering this perspective of the OFMA.

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