

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the)	
Reports for the Calendar Year 2020 For)	Case No. 20-01-AU-RPT
The Fiscal Assessment of All)	
Regulated Entities)	

COMMENTS

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE PUCO'S ORDER TO
IMMEDIATELY HALT IN-PERSON SALES OF ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL
GAS, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE PUCO AND THE OCC FORGO
COLLECTING AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FOR 2019**

Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc., an Ohio energy broker with over 20 years of experience in the aggregation industry, requests that the PUCO forgoes collection of an annual fiscal assessment through the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community, effective immediately. Suspending in-person marketing activities will bring extreme hardship to the industry. The order in response to Governor DeWine's state of emergency for the coronavirus reaches above and beyond the definition of close contact, about six feet, in his Executive Order 2020-01D. The indefinite nature of this order and far from an appropriate temporary procedure to implement as an alleviation of this public health threat.

As stated in the PUCO's opening of this docket on March 12, 2020, utility disconnections would "impose a service continuity hardship" and would not be an appropriate requirement to suspend in response to this state of emergency, the indefinite suspension of in-person energy marketing would create unacceptable long-term hardships on the competitive supplier industry. The US coronavirus cases have soared past 7,000 and schools and businesses have closed. These interactions have equal purpose in the protection of our communities by maintaining the competitiveness of the utility industry long after this health crisis has

subsidized. Otherwise, consumers will be harmed by monopolies and high electric and natural gas rates.

Since the order to suspend in person and door-to-door energy marketing creates a hardship outside the Governor's Order, the PUCO's reporting fees cannot be reasonably expected to be collected if this order is implemented. O.R.C. 4905.10(A) sets a minimum assessment of \$100 per company at this time, which we request should be waived in response to the economic impact of the state of emergency and suspension of in-person energy marketing.

Wherefore, Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. respectfully urges the Commission to grant this request.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCKEYE ENERGY BROKERS, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Bellish", is written over the printed name.

Thomas M. Bellish, President

Cc: Governor Mike DeWine

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in

Case No(s). 20-0001-AU-RPT

Summary: Comments electronically filed by Mr. Thomas M Bellish on behalf of Buckeye Energy Brokers