



June 8, 2022

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To the esteemed members of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

This testimony is in reference to the rate adjustment request from Columbia Gas for cases 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, and 21-0640-GA-AAM.

Columbia Gas is a longstanding supporter of Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) and our mission to end hunger. At MOFC, we know hunger does not work in isolation, so we are addressing the root causes of food insecurity. It will take all of us to end hunger, and we are grateful for the support of Columbia Gas and our other community partners.

Columbia Gas is a valued partner of Mid-Ohio Food Collective and has a long record of collaboration in addressing hunger across the 20 counties we serve. MOFC's relationship with Columbia Gas extends over 30 years, including leadership support as board members, financial supporters, and steadfast corporate volunteers.

Leadership from Columbia Gas joined our Board of Trustees in 1992 and has remained an active and engaged member throughout the years, including current board member Dan Creekmur who has served as a Trustee since 2017.

Columbia Gas has been a major financial supporter of MOFC's work to address hunger in the communities we serve, both through ongoing annual support and significant contribution to our recent "Rooted in You" campaign. Rooted in You focused on re-imagining strategies to end hunger and building the infrastructure to address underlying causes as well as immediate need. Columbia Gas's support speaks to their long-term investment in ensuring food access for every Ohioan in the communities we serve.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our work, and we simply could not meet the need in our community without the steadfast support from corporate volunteer groups. Not only are Columbia Gas employees regular volunteers at our on-site pantry in Grove City, but they were also one of the few corporate groups that continued volunteering throughout the pandemic. When our community most needed help, the team from Columbia Gas stepped up to meet the need.



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We know the decision to raise rates for customers is not made lightly, and we appreciate the measured and thoughtful approach Columbia Gas is taking. The company has not increased rates in 13 years and strives to provide safe and affordable access to natural gas. This rate adjustment requested would allow Columbia Gas to replace its natural gas distributing system and invest in new technologies.

Columbia Gas is committed to energy efficiency and offers a variety of programs that can help homeowners lower their natural gas bills including home energy audits, income eligible weatherization, and appliance rebates. These programs help their customers make the most of their energy dollars and reduce costs for customers.

We see firsthand that many Ohioans are currently struggling with inflation as the costs of necessities like housing, fuel, and groceries increase. Columbia Gas has demonstrated their commitment to minimizing this rate adjustment's impact on its most vulnerable customers by offering financial assistance programs to those struggling to pay for their utilities. Columbia Gas created an in-depth web page about utility assistance for its customers to make it easy for people to find and apply for an assistance program. For those who are unsure if they qualify for or need help selecting the right one, Columbia Gas encourages customers to call the support line for more information. MOFC is also working with Columbia Gas to connect our customers to assistance programs through our service network, in our shared commitment to assist households in meeting their basic needs.

MOFC appreciates the work Columbia Gas is doing to make sure its most vulnerable customers are supported during this change. We trust that Columbia Gas will continue in partnership with MOFC to ensure that every resident in Ohio has access to the basic needs that support a healthy, hunger-free life.

Matt Habash

CEO and President, Mid-Ohio Food Collective



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Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-AAM

Summary: Public Comment Testimony in reference to the rate adjustment request from Columbia Gas for cases 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, and 21-0640-GA-AAM. electronically filed by Mrs. Hallie N Carrino-Lee on behalf of Mid-Ohio Food Collective and Mrs. Hallie N Carrino-Lee