

FILE

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June 14, 2022

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

RE: Case Numbers 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-AAM

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

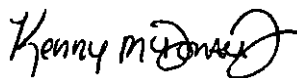
On behalf of the Columbus Partnership, I write to offer comments regarding Columbia Gas of Ohio's pending rate case. Columbia Gas of Ohio provides safe, reliable service to Ohioans throughout 61 counties. The proposed rate change will help to ensure they remain a healthy utility for the state and continue to support the communities they serve by contributing to economic growth and replacing the aging natural gas system.

The Columbus Partnership is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of 75 chairpersons, chief executive officers, and senior executives from the region's leading businesses and institutions. Our members include 15 Fortune 1000 CEOs, as well as the leaders of the nation's largest university and world's largest research and development organization. Columbia Gas of Ohio/NiSource has been an active and involved member of the Columbus Partnership since 2009.

With plans to replace more than 4,000 miles of the system over the next 15 years, Columbia Gas of Ohio is playing a key role in Ohio's economy and is directly contributing to the prosperity of the region and the state as a whole. They have already invested \$1.1 billion in Ohio and replaced 1,945 miles of gas lines. In addition, Columbia Gas of Ohio has a variety of energy assistance programs and payment plan options, proving them to be a great partner to the community. This update is imperative for the company to continue to grow and provide excellent service to the people of Ohio, especially given that it has been over 13 years since their last rate adjustment.

The Partnership's goal is to provide a long-term vision for achieving greater economic prosperity and has positioned Columbus to be one of the strongest environments to attract businesses and investment in the world. This vision for prosperity compels us to stand with business leaders across the State of Ohio in advocating for businesses to implement important safety measures meant to protect their employees, clients and others. We believe the work that Columbia Gas of Ohio is doing in the community is an asset to the state, and we hope that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio will recognize the need for this adjustment.

Sincerely,



Kenny McDonald  
President and CEO, Columbus Partnership  
KM/gb

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