

 **FILE**

Matthew Bezold  
208 S Algonquin Ave  
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June 10, 2022

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

RE: Columbia Gas of Ohio distribution rate, 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, and 21-0640-GA-AAM

PUCO

2022 JUN 21 AM 9:55

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Dear PUCO:

I am strongly opposed to Columbia Gas' proposed rate plan increase. I think the increase Columbia is proposing is entirely too large and do not believe the company has demonstrated the need for a distribution rate increase of that size.

Columbia Gas makes the case that they have not requested a rate increase in 14 years. However, I feel that it is more fiscally responsible for Columbia Gas to more frequently review their finances as to not have to request such large increases so infrequently. Doing such would make gas distribution rate increases smoother and more predictable for ratepayers and Ohio's consumers.

I have heard that Columbia Gas makes sizable contributions to charity. While I do not have direct knowledge of where Columbia obtains this money from, I would have to assume that the money Columbia gas is giving to local charities spends just as well on charity as it does on infrastructure improvements and other things Columbia Gas would plan to do with the money they would like to collect from ratepayers. As we all do, I think Columbia Gas' first option should be to look at its finances and consider cutting costs, instead of going straight to the ratepayers for more money. Ratepayers are in no position to come up with the funds Columbia Gas is considering charging, given the current economic conditions and soaring inflation.

I hope the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio takes seriously its role in justly regulating Columbia Gas of Ohio and all utilities in Ohio.

Thank you for your time,

*Matthew Bezold*

Matthew Bezold

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