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Ohio Electric Utility Companies Offer Amendments to S.B. 221

New "Safeguard" Language Will Make Current Proposal Fairer, More Transparent, and More Pro-Consumer

COLUMBUS, OH – Ohio's electric utility companies joined together today to recommend a package of "Safeguard" amendments to Senate Bill 221 that protects consumers from potential rate spikes and ensures a fair and balanced process for determining electricity rates.

The package of amendments, by all members of the Ohio Electric Utility Institute (OEUI), reinforces the existing rate stabilization process for determining electric rates as well as establishes objective and clear conditions to verify the existence of a competitive market as another option for ratemaking -- and preserving customer choice. Under the amendments, the Public Utility Commission of Ohio would be given the tools to phase in any rate increase over a period of time so as to moderate any potential rate spike.

The amendments also encourage energy efficiency, timely construction of diverse types of new generation facilities and greater reliability for electricity distribution.

OEUI's proposed amendments retain much of the existing language of S.B. 221 and provide an effective, transparent approach for achieving the goals of the bill. The amendments propose several changes in three broad areas.

The first set of amendments offers a reasonable process for electric rate plans and objective conditions for establishing a competitive market that allows customer choice. If adopted, these amendments ensure Ohio electric consumers have sufficient and reliable electric generation now and in the future.

The second set of amendments supports renewable energy sources and expands the scope of the proposed advanced energy standards so that all electricity users bear the financial burden of S.B. 221's advanced energy technology mandates.

The third set encourages energy delivery infrastructure improvement and modernization while ensuring clear rules, transparency and fairness throughout the process.

The exact text and description of OEUI's Safeguard amendments are available for review at www.FairElectricRates.org.

The Ohio Electric Utility Institute is a non-profit state trade association representing investor-owned electric companies in Ohio. Member companies include AEP Ohio (Ohio Power and Columbus Southern Power), Duke Energy Ohio, Dayton Power and Light Company, and FirstEnergy Corp. (Ohio Edison Company, The Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison Company). Together, the four companies provide electricity to more than 4.8 million Ohio customers, employ more than 19,000 people, and financially support more than 16,000 retirees. Collectively, the companies pay more than \$1 billion in state and local taxes each year.

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