



Chris Kershner  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
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**Good afternoon, commissioners and PUCO representatives. My name is Chris Kershner, President & CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,200 businesses throughout the greater Dayton region, which employ over 200,000 individuals in a 10 county area. We are the 25<sup>th</sup> largest Chamber of Commerce in the nation, which is a true testament to the integrity and health of our region's business community.**

**I am here today to testify in support of AES Ohio's investment proposal and their economic impact on the Dayton region. With over 700 employees, AES Ohio's impact on jobs, families and our economy permeates throughout our entire greater Dayton region. AES Ohio does not rest on their laurels, but instead they are continually seeking ways to increase their corporate investment in Ohio, grow jobs and provide more efficient and cost effective utility service to our business community. AES Ohio recently relocated a number of significant, high paying technical jobs to Dayton, Ohio. These jobs came from outside of the United States and could have been located in any geographic location. Instead, AES Ohio chose to invest in Ohio and relocate the AES Global SMART Operations Center to Dayton, which will oversee AES**

corporate's national and global technical assets. This is a significant investment and signifies corporate wide, that AES is committed to Ohio and committed to being part of the economic fabric of our community. I will be honest with you, from a Quality of Life perspective, attracting these high paying jobs here pretty much sells itself. Dayton and Ohio boasts a low cost of living, great education system, outdoor recreation and one of the most efficient transportation and infrastructure networks in the world.

When it comes to utility service to our business community, there are two things that must be paramount at all times: 1) Reliability and efficiency of service, and 2) Corporate economic health. Businesses need certainty and reliability to operate, plan and make future investments in their companies. I'm proud to say that AES Ohio has always been at the forefront of these objectives, however, as operations costs have increased it can position a company like AES Ohio to be forced to do more with the less and potentially be forced to sacrifice key characteristics of these objectives in the future. That shouldn't be acceptable for our business community, AES Ohio or our state regulators. Continued investment in infrastructure, operations and safe & stable job growth must be a priority.

AES Ohio has been a leader, a corporate partner and a job creator, all while still having the lowest rates in the State of Ohio of any electric utility. I respectfully ask you today to fully consider AES Ohio's proposal based on its merits, the character assessment of their company and their long-term commitment to Ohio and the Dayton region.

Thank you for your time today and I will be happy to answer any questions you have.