



OHIO

October 26, 2011

The Honorable Todd Snitchler
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

As your agency implements the laws surrounding electricity, and the Governor and the General Assembly further review Ohio's energy policies, I want to share with you the views of the Ohio Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/Ohio) on electricity policy.

NFIB/Ohio represents over 24,000 small-business owners of varying size and industry class. As you may know, small businesses have historically accounted for 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs. They compete each day to earn the business of their customers, and every decision and expense is scrutinized carefully so they remain competitive in the global marketplace. Therefore, policy-makers must always be sensitive to the decisions they make and how those decisions will impact Ohio's entrepreneurs if our great state is to flourish again.

The legislature debated in 1999, and again in 2008, whether or not Ohio should be a competitive state for electric generation service. The legislature concluded that a robust, competitive market would bring lower prices, force operating efficiencies, and encourage advancements and innovation in the marketplace. As a result, current law requires that policies of the state must promote a competitive market, and small businesses across Ohio now have the opportunity to choose their electricity supplier and secure a lower price when possible – and electricity prices are now near historic lows.

NFIB/Ohio has long championed the position that fostering competitive markets and limiting government intervention will free entrepreneurs to create jobs, make capital investments, and take risks that help grow their business. It is my understanding that efforts are underway that may limit opportunities for small businesses to shop for electricity in some parts of the state. I do not believe any action by the PUCO to limit fair and open competition for electricity by small, commercial users makes sense for economic development in Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger R. Geiger", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Roger R. Geiger
Vice President / Executive Director

cc: Governor John Kasich
Senator Tom Niehaus, Senate President
Representative Bill Batchelder, Speaker of the House