



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

April 8, 2010

Alan Schriber, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Schriber:

Thank you for addressing the termination of the all-electric home discount when it became apparent that so many First Energy customers' electric bills were sky rocketing, causing countless Ohioans to have a difficult time paying their electric bills.

Unfortunately, I continue to hear from many Ohioans that the discount is only in place for individuals who lived in the home when the original discount was terminated. The absence of this discount for new customers is negatively impacting both home prices and the ability for customers to pay their utility bills. I know the PUCO is likely receiving a significant number of letters on this subject, but I would like to share a couple examples of why I think it is so important to take action immediately so that next winter First Energy customers are not left in this same situation.

Out of the many letters I have received regarding this issue, one was from a family farmer who does not have gas available where he lives and is concerned about the value of his family's property. One homeowner wrote that he had to move to Canada temporarily for work, only to come back and find out that he had lost thousands of dollars in the value of their home because they had lost the discount.

I also continue to hear from the Downtown Cleveland Alliance and others who are working hard to revitalize our downtown centers and make urban living affordable. It is vital we support these urban development initiatives. They are critical to creating jobs and enhancing the quality of life for Ohioans. In these tough economic times, we must make sure we are doing everything possible to keep costs down and limit financial challenges for Ohioans.

I am asking that you work with your staff, fellow commissioners and First Energy to apply the discount that was in place prior to 2008 to all of the residents living in all-electric homes, apartments and condominiums that are struggling to pay their electric bills, regardless of who resides in the home moving forward. Swift action on this matter would serve the interests of the people of Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Strickland".

Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio