



Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board

Via Email
November 23, 2020

Mr. Michael Koren, Chair
(Representative of Regulated Public Utilities – O.R.C. 4901.021(A)(9))
Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council
c/o PUCO
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council

Dear Chair Koren:

I hope you are well. I respectfully am writing to ask that you exercise your discretion to promptly schedule a special public meeting of the Nominating Council, for the purposes described below, per O.R.C. 4901.021(C). If any other member of the Nominating Council joins this request, then the meeting “shall be called...,” per that statute. (Attached is the Council list on the PUCO’s website.)

O.R.C. 4901.021(D)(2) allows the Council just thirty days to send nominations to the Governor, for the seat vacated Friday by former PUCO Chair Randazzo. In my view the Nominating Council would benefit from a prompt special meeting to consider, at the outset of this limited timeline, if events related to tainted House Bill 6 warrant any changes for the Council, including changes in its chairpersonship. (This approach is allowed under O.A.C. 4901:7-1-04(B), without awaiting a vote in January on the Council’s leadership.) Meaningful changes could foster Ohioans’ confidence in their government. In this regard, it ought to be considered whether or not the Nominating Council should continue to be led by the representative of the utilities for filling the vacant commissioner seat (which is not a matter about you personally). I do have an opinion on this issue.

Your consideration and that of the Nominating Council for a special meeting are appreciated. It would be helpful if you or the Council Secretary would ask the Council Coordinator (O.A.C. 4901:7-1-04(G)) to distribute this letter to the Council members, as the Coordinator may have contact information that I lack. I have respectfully submitted this request in writing, in the public domain, for the purposes of transparency and openness in the Nominating Council’s processes.

Sincerely,

Michael Watkins
Chair, Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board

cc: Members of the Nominating Council
Attachment



**Membership Roster
PUC Nominating Council
2020**

Speaker of the House's Appointee
Steve Cuckler
Columbus

President of the Ohio State Bar Assoc.
Kimberly W. Bojko, Esq.
Columbus

President of the Ohio Municipal League
Sharon K. Cassler, MMC
Cambridge

Ohio Department of Aging
Ginni Ragan
Columbus

Board Chairman of Accountancy Board
John Patterson
Columbus

Chairman of State Board of Registration
For Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Bert Dawson
East Liverpool

President of the Senate's Appointee
Shannon Jones
Springboro

Governor's Appointee/Representative of
Regulated Utilities
Mike Koren
Columbus

Ohio Development Services Agency
Andrew Pusateri
Columbus

Governor's Appointee/Organized Labor
Mark A. Totman
Columbus

Governor's Appointee/Representative of
The Business Community
Michael Hartley
Columbus

Chair of Consumers' Counsel
Governing Board
Stuart Young
Springfield