



Resolution

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board

In Support of the Ohio General Assembly's Vision for an Energy Future Based on Power Plant Competition Where Competitors, not Monopoly Utilities, Generate Power at Lower Prices and Higher Innovation for Ohioans

- WHEREAS,** Electricity, natural gas, telephone, and water services are essential for Ohioans; and
- WHEREAS,** Ohio consumers should have retail electric service that is adequate, reliable, safe, efficient, non-discriminatory, and reasonably priced, which also are terms in state policy; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1999, the Ohio General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 3 to deregulate power plants and to give Ohioans the benefits of power plant competition, among other things; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2008, the Ohio General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 221, which created new ratemaking processes (including so-called "electric security plans") that favor electric utilities and disfavor residential consumers with a result of electric consumers paying above-market subsidies and other charges; and
- WHEREAS,** Despite Ohio's deregulation of power plants, AEP has proposed developing renewable energy power plants under state regulation, based on a limited exception in the 2008 law that allows monopolies like AEP to own or operate power plants if power is needed by consumers; and
- WHEREAS,** Under AEP's proposal, its captive monopoly customers would be required to subsidize the renewable plants; and
- WHEREAS,** AEP has not demonstrated that its proposed monopoly megawatts are needed by Ohio consumers and, in fact, the power from the renewable plants would not be dedicated for use by Ohio consumers but would be sold into the multi-state regional power market; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's competitive market is already providing Ohioans with lots of choices for renewable power without charging consumers for subsidies; and

WHEREAS, AEP Ohio is not guaranteeing for customers its claim that they will eventually save money from its development of the solar power plants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel supports the power plant competition and deregulation that were envisioned by the Ohio General Assembly to deliver lower prices and higher innovation to consumers.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel opposes AEP Ohio's proposal to develop renewable energy power plants under state regulation, because among other things the power is unneeded by consumers and the proposal is contrary to Ohio's electric deregulation law that gives consumers the protection of a competitive power plant market.

I verify that this Resolution has been approved by the Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, this 15th day of January 2019.



Michael Watkins, Chairman

Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel