



## **OCC: Legislature Should Take Page from OPSB Appointments, Reform PUCO**

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The Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) says the General Assembly should reform the appointment process for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) by giving OCC the same nominating authority for commissioner that the consumer advocate has for the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB).

The consumers' counsel points no further than Gov. Mike DeWine's recent OPSB appointment of former OCC Senior Energy Analyst Gregory Slone, one of three of agency nominees to the siting board this year.

Slone has operated Slone Engineering Services since 2016 after serving five years as OCC senior analyst and eight years with American Municipal Power (AMP) in Columbus, where he rose to vice president of generation services. He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Ohio State University (OSU).

The governor selected Slone from OCC nominations that included Prof. Ramteen Sioshansi of OSU's departments of electrical and computer engineering and integrated systems engineering and Senior Manager Joel Baetens of Oberlin College's Office of Energy and Resources, former director of utilities for Ohio University.

The consumers' counsel has long called for an overhaul of PUCO appointments to include consumer representatives as opposed to a commission dominated by former utility employees and lobbyists. OCC responded to the recent appointment.

"Consumers' Counsel [Bruce] Weston appreciates the governor's appointment of Greg Slone to serve as the public's representative on the OPSB. And he wishes Mr. Slone well in his public service to Ohioans," spokesperson Merrilee Embs said in a statement.

"This law for OCC to nominate the public's representative on the board is a good process for fairness and balance that the Ohio Legislature enacted. A needed reform would be for the Legislature to mirror this process for the PUCO so that one of the five commissioner appointments would also be nominated by OCC," she concluded.

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