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**OMA Responds to FERC Decision to Prohibit FirstEnergy and AEP from Implementing Plans to Impose Billions of Dollars in New Costs on Electricity Consumers**

*The Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) frustrates the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) decision to grant subsidy requests from Ohio-based utilities AEP and FirstEnergy. Their bailout proposals would have forced Ohio customers to subsidize old, inefficient power plants for the next eight years at an estimated cost of \$6 billion.*

(Columbus, OH): Eric Burkland, president of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA), issued the following statement commenting on the FERC's decision to review Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) plans for FirstEnergy and American Electric Power (AEP) that had been recently approved by the PUCO:

"As did the U.S. Supreme Court in the Maryland case last week, FERC has acted to protect the wholesale electricity markets from manipulation, created by the recent PUCO decision on the PPAs, which harms customers.

The OMA strongly opposed the PUCO decision that harmed wholesale markets that are benefitting Ohio electricity consumers and that served to subsidize potentially uneconomic utility generating units.

The unanimous FERC decision is welcomed by Ohio manufacturers that depend on markets to provide the cost and innovation benefits of competition.

This decision provides an opportunity to reinforce the evolution of market-based electricity generation in Ohio and the economic benefits and job creation that will come from new investment in efficient generating capacity."

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*The mission of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.*