



October 2, 2017

The Honorable Robert Cupp  
Chair, Public Utilities Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Michael Ashford  
Ranking Member, Public Utilities Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Opposition Testimony HB 239, OVEC Legislation**

Dear Chairman Cupp and Ranking Member Ashford,

AARP Ohio respectfully disagrees with HB 239. This legislation is extremely harmful to consumers and will pass along cost that the utility should be paying to hard working Ohioans. AARP is standing to protect Ohioans from paying subsidies to electric utilities for 60 year old power plants. We will fight for our 1.6 million 50+ members in Ohio, and begin to notify them of this attempt to take their money and bailout out a for-profit company.

AARP's view is that a legislative solution is unnecessary; especially while one of the utilities is already charging consumers to subsidize OVEC power plants and other utilities have proposals on the table with the PUCO.

It is shameful that the utilities are seeking a legislative solution for something that is not even an issue, and expecting seniors and hardworking Ohioans to pay for it.

AEP is charging a million customers to subsidize OVEC, and DP&L and Duke have proposals pending with the PUCO to charge customers more money.

AARP Ohio continues to hear from our members on **why their utility bills shows that they are paying more money in fees and subsidy charges than they are for electricity**. An example of this issues was a recent AARP survey email that went out to 50,000 targeted members in rural and suburban Ohio and within 30 minutes of the email being sent, we received 2,000 responses highlighting what another <sup>Earl Goldhammer</sup> additional charge would mean to them. NO ONE said it would be a positive, and almost all of our members mentioned that they would need to sacrifice something.

How is that even fair? When AEP and other utilities have reaped profits, and pay executives hefty bonuses, while a tax paying, law abiding citizen that works all his life and now at 70 years old has to rob Peter to pay Paul in order to pay for a utility bill that is continuing to go up.

This is not a free market practice, and AARP Ohio is against HB 239, which in our view is an effort to prop-up an old power plant on the back of hard working Ohioans.

Very truly yours,



Earl Goldhammer

AARP Ohio Volunteer State President