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Statewide

OMAEG Submits Comments in Federal Infrastructure Law Investigation (Case No. 22-755-AU-COI)

Summary: In August 2022, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) initiated an investigation to review the implementation of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. In January, the PUCO published a draft program narrative outlining how it intends to implement the IIJA, and requested stakeholder comments.

The OMAEG has submitted its [comments](#), stating that while it supports certain objectives and metrics included in the narrative, the PUCO should prioritize projects that: 1.) promote load reduction; 2.) encourage communication and planning between transmission organizations, investor-owned utilities, and customers; and 3.) reduce costs to customers.

Most importantly, the OMAEG asserted that the PUCO's primary focus should be ensuring that IIJA funding recipients are held accountable and actually use said funding to measurably improve distribution and transmission systems reliability and resilience in a cost-effective manner.

Other parties generally supported the draft program narrative, while also offering recommendations such as using reliability metrics to evaluate projects and their success, incorporating environmental metrics, increasing the focus on expanding community benefits, and setting aside more funds for smaller entities such as municipal utilities and cooperatives.

OMAEG Submits Comments in Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Rules Review (Case No. 21-902-GE-BRO)

Summary: In 2021, the OPSB invited stakeholders to comment on proposed amendments to its governing rules. The OMAEG submitted [comments](#) and [reply comments](#) recommending amendments that would ensure customer-funded investments in the transmission system are cost-effective, transparent, and sensible,

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and that would produce both reliability benefits to customers and the Ohio transmission system.

Per the OPSB's request for additional comments, the OMAEG submitted [supplemental comments](#) reiterating its position on customer-funded transmission system investments.

In its [supplemental reply comments](#), the OMAEG recommended that the OPSB carefully monitor spending on utility-owned, ratepayer-funded projects. To this end, the OMAEG urged the OPSB to play a more significant role in determining the necessity and financial prudence of transmission investments.