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'PUCO's Job Isn't Done Yet,' OMA Says After \$250 Million FirstEnergy House Bill 6 Penalty

COLUMBUS, Ohio –The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) said the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) order requiring FirstEnergy to pay \$250 million in penalties marks a critical step toward rebuilding trust in the state's utility system after the House Bill 6 corruption scandal.

"Ohio manufacturers won't tolerate anything less than a fair, transparent energy market," OMA President Ryan Augsburger said. "When corruption is ignored, ratepayers get fleeced. Today's long-overdue action makes clear that accountability isn't optional and Ohio's job creators won't be the ones footing the bill."

The association also urged regulators to scrutinize faulty forecasting models that have already helped drive electric bills higher and fuel unaffordability, saying manufacturers can't be charged based on projections that lack transparency or rigor.

"PUCO's job isn't done yet," Augsburger said. "We welcome their attention and look forward to working on other issues where their leadership is needed to protect ratepayers and strengthen Ohio's economy. There's still more to do."

The OMA said it will continue working with PUCO and policymakers to ensure reforms deliver competitive rates, reliable service and a modern, accountable energy system that supports Ohio's manufacturing economy.

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association comprised solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$133 billion annually to the economy.

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