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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMA Challenge Results in Slashed Forecasts

COLUMBUS, Ohio — AEP Ohio has cut disputed customer load forecasts by as much as 33% after the Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) Energy Group challenged inflated assumptions in the utility's original filing.

The revised forecasts would result in more realistic proposed rates for commercial and industrial customers.

In January, AEP projected substantial electricity-use growth across several commercial and industrial rate classes, including classes where anticipated data center growth was unlikely to occur. OMA warned that those overstated forecasts could distort rates and shift costs among customers.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) staff agreed that several forecasts were “significantly overstated,” and the commission ordered AEP to submit updated figures.

[AEP's latest filing](#) cuts the disputed forecasts by between 17.7% and 33.3%. Under the revised proposal, general service secondary and primary customers would see rate increases of less than 1%, while transmission-level customers would see a 1.6% decrease.

“AEP's original numbers did not hold up,” said Ryan Augsburger, president of the OMA. “We challenged them, the PUCO required an update and customers are now looking at rates based on far more credible assumptions.”

The revised forecast is a meaningful win for customers, but it does not resolve broader concerns about PJM's load forecasts or create a permanent state-level safeguard against speculative projections being passed on to ratepayers.

The filing also reinforces OMA's concerns about House Bill 646, which would codify certain tariffs into state law. OMA has argued that load forecasts and customer cost allocations should be tested through open PUCO proceedings with evidence, expert review and appeal rights, not locked into statute before the assumptions are proven.

“This filing proves why forecasts need to be challenged before they become customer bills,” Augsburger said. “HB 646 would move Ohio in the opposite direction by mandating an approach into law before customers have a meaningful opportunity to test the assumptions.”

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed 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 \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Dave O'Neil

Director, Communications and Marketing

(614) 302-7990

doneil@ohiomfg.com

33 N. High St., 6th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3005

Phone: 614-224-5111 • Toll free: 800-662-4463
Fax: 614-224-1012

oma@ohiomfg.com
WWW.OHIOMFG.COM