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**GREATER CLEVELAND CLERGY COALITION
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REV. DR. E.T. CAVINESS, CHAIRMAN**

July 18, 2016

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am writing on behalf of our Greater Cleveland Clergy Coalition, an organization of more than 60 Pastors and 4 Cleveland Ministers Organizations concerned about numerous issues impacting or congregations.

Dating back to May of 2015, our coalition of urban ministers had various concerns regarding FirstEnergy's Electric Security Plan. In fact, several of our members marched in protest at FirstEnergy's Annual Shareholders Meeting.

FirstEnergy's CEO Chuck Jones graciously invited our leadership to the company's Akron headquarters and laid out all the specifics of its proposal, including generous support for low-income customers, a strong commitment to environmental justice, and protection for thousands of Ohio jobs. Our conclusion was that the Commission's approval of FirstEnergy's plan was in our communities' best interest, and we were very pleased that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved this plan in March. In addition, we now have a joint group of FirstEnergy leaders and Pastors working together on energy issues for the good of our community.

However, we now understand that the long-term rate protections in FirstEnergy's plan are still being debated in Columbus, and the outcome is far from certain. This is of grave concern because we believe that the plan as originally approved will help shield electric customers from much bigger rate increases down the road that our communities simply cannot afford. We're also aware that the Ohio job protections that were originally approved remain in doubt.

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Please urge the Commission to urgently move forward and help protect our communities against higher electric rates in the future. There may be some minor rate increases in the first few years, but we believe FirstEnergy's approach will benefit our communities in the long run, protect jobs, and safeguard vulnerable customers from skyrocketing energy bills in the future.

As Chairman of our Coalition I am signing this letter in conjunction with several other local Pastors that are a part of our coalition.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours truly,


Rev. Dr. E. T. Caviness, Chairman
Senior Pastor of Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church
President of SCLC Cleveland Chapter

Pastor 

Pastor C. Vincent Berry

Bishop Eugene Ward

Rev. Stephen D. Sullivan

Rev. Dr. L. T. King

Rev. Dr. Levan Thompson

Pastor Bobbie Luster

Pastor Walter Houston

Rev. Walter Humphrey

Rev. Arthur Carter