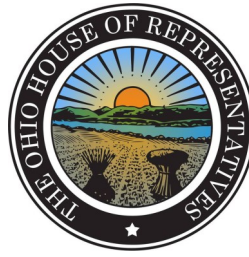


# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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February 2026

*Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, Clark-Fulton, & South Hills Neighborhoods!*

Dear District 14 Resident:

This winter has been brutally cold and snowy — and for too many Ohio families, that means higher utility bills and real worry about staying warm and powered. I've made it a top priority in the Ohio House of Representatives to **hold utilities accountable to ratepayers**, cut unnecessary costs from your bills, and strengthen protections for consumers across the state.

One of the biggest wins for Ohioans last year was the **passage and enactment of House Bill 15**, which includes my provision to eliminate the costly and unwarranted **Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) coal plant subsidies** that were tacked onto your electric bills for years as part of the tainted House Bill 6 legacy. Removing these subsidies will **save Ohio families approximately half a billion dollars between now and 2030**, keeping hard-earned money in your pockets instead of being wasted on outdated and inefficient coal plant costs.

I'm also proud to have been recognized for this work on behalf of consumers with the **Energy Champion Award** — a testament to my commitment to energy reform that increases transparency, strengthens competition, and protects everyday Ohioans from unfair costs.

But my work doesn't stop with savings. Ohioans deserve **reliable and affordable utility service**, especially during extreme weather. That's why I took a strong stand at the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)** against a proposal from FirstEnergy that would have weakened reliability standards and allowed longer outages. I argued — and continue to argue — that utilities should **improve performance, not lower expectations**, because reliable electricity is essential for safety, health, and economic stability for all communities.

I also pressed PUCO to go further in protecting consumers from utility shutoffs and to adopt stronger seasonal safeguards, especially in the coldest months when families are most vulnerable.

Looking ahead, I will keep fighting for **utility policies that put people first** — policies that protect consumers, curb unfair charges, and ensure utilities deliver on their promises without compromising reliability. Your voices matter in these decisions, and my office is here to help you navigate these challenges. Together, we can make sure Ohioans stay warm, safe, and financially secure — no matter how cold it gets outside.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. As always, if my office may be of help, please reach out. Stay safe and stay warm this month.

Sincerely,

**Sean Patrick Brennan**  
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*Please join me in congratulating Parma's new Chief of Police Kevin Riley. I have known Chief Riley for many years and know that our community is in very capable hands. I look forward to working with him and his fine staff.*



## State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Urges PUCO to Reject First Energy's Proposal to Weaken Reliability

COLUMBUS — **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma)** today called on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to reject a proposal from FirstEnergy that would allow its electric utilities to take longer to restore power after outages and, in some cases, permit customers to experience more outages each year.



FirstEnergy's proposal would affect Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Ohio Edison, and Toledo Edison. The company acknowledges in filings that its reliability performance has worsened since 2019 and is asking regulators to respond by loosening existing standards.

"Ohio families should not be asked to lower their expectations because a utility failed to meet its obligations," said **Rep. Brennan**. "Reliable electricity is an essential service, not a luxury. When power goes out for hours or days, the consequences are real and sometimes dangerous."

Northeast Ohio communities have submitted formal objections to the proposal, citing repeated and prolonged outages that have resulted in serious public safety concerns. These include interruptions to powered medical equipment, residents trapped in elevators, exposure to extreme heat and cold, missed work and school, and significant food spoilage - particularly for low-income households.

Many reported outages lasted more than five hours and many were attributed by FirstEnergy to its own equipment failures, line failures, or company errors - factors within FirstEnergy's control.

"FirstEnergy has suggested weather and tree-related issues are driving these outages, but the record shows many failures stem from aging infrastructure, maintenance issues, and operational errors," continued **Rep. Brennan**. "Customers have already paid more than \$1 billion since 2017 for reliability improvements. Weakening standards now sends the wrong message."

Consumer advocates have also warned that FirstEnergy's proposed changes rely on system-wide averages, meaning a single extended outage could be hidden statistically while still causing severe harm to affected communities.

**Rep. Brennan** emphasized that declining reliability should prompt stronger oversight - not relaxed expectations. This request runs afoul of **House Bill (HB) 15** which includes provisions requiring increased scrutiny and enforcement of reliability.

"The Commission's role is to protect the public interest," concluded **Rep. Brennan**. "Granting this request would reward poor performance and shift the burden onto customers who have already paid their share. I urge the PUCO to maintain strong, enforceable reliability standards and hold utilities accountable."

The PUCO is expected to begin evidentiary hearings on the case later this month.





## State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Believes That No One Should Have to Choose Between Heat and Hope

This winter has reminded us just how essential reliable and affordable utilities are. When temperatures drop and snow piles up, heating and electricity aren't luxuries — they are necessities that keep families safe.

***My fight for consumers at the Statehouse isn't just about policy. It's personal.***

I was raised by a single mom who worked incredibly hard, but there were still months when paying the utility bill felt overwhelming. I remember the stress in our home when envelopes arrived in the mail and the quiet fear about whether the heat would stay on. Further, when I was young and getting started, I received help through the **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**. That support made a real difference for me during difficult times.

Those experiences shaped who I am and why I do this work. They are the reason I push so hard to hold utilities accountable, fight unfair rate hikes, and strengthen consumer protections. And they are also why I want people to know: **asking for help is nothing to be ashamed of**. These programs exist for a reason — to help families get back on their feet when times are tough.

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay utility bills or needs help understanding your rights as a consumer, there are resources available.



*Sadly, there are few folks in Columbus who are there to look out for consumers. The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is one of the few exceptions. That is why I have Consumers' Counsel Maureen Willis and her office on speed dial. We are constantly working together to protect Ohio's consumers.*

### **Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC)**

The OCC represents residential utility customers and provides guidance on assistance programs and consumer rights.

**Website:** [www.occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance](http://www.occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance)

A comprehensive source for consumer protections, assistance program information, and advocacy updates.

**Phone:** 1-877-742-5622 (toll-free) or 1-614-466-9467

Call for help with utility complaints, billing questions, and assistance program guidance.

The OCC offers fact sheets on programs such as **HEAP, PIPP Plus, weatherization assistance, and reconnection protections**, and can help connect you with organizations that may be able to lower your bills or prevent disconnection.

If you have a general utility issue or a complaint your provider hasn't resolved, you can also contact the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)** at **1-800-686-7826** or visit [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov) for additional assistance.

No family should have to sit in the dark or cold because of financial hardship. If you need help, please reach out — and if you know someone who might be struggling, consider sharing this information. My office is also always here to help connect you with the right resources.

We get through tough seasons by looking out for one another.



## State Rep. Brennan Out & About in District 14 Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland



\*Riding along with Parma Police Department's Officer Tom Kuchler proved to me, once again, how blessed we are to be watched over by our fine first responders. \*You can always feel the love at First Steps Pre-School amongst the students and staff. \*Enjoying coffee at Café Blanc in Parma Heights with AFL-CIO members of the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters, Northeast Ohio Firefighters, and United Food and Commercial Workers to discuss issues affecting their jobs. \*I always run into many good friends at Love Coffee in Parma. \*Taking snacks to the hard working educators and support staff at Dentzler Elementary School. \*Talking public safety issues over coffee with Cleveland Second District Commander Tim Maffo-Judd at Old Brooklyn's Metropolitan Coffee. \*Congratulating Chick-fil-A in Parma on 5 years. \*Visiting Parma Senior Center Director Erin Lally who loves serving our most mature constituents. \*I enjoy meeting with local small business owners to discuss state policies that affect them. Here I am with Parma's State Farm Insurance agent Steve McIntosh. \*Once my family was on the receiving end of assistance. Now I am in an amazing position to be able to help organizations like the Cleveland Foodbank who do so much for so many in the community.

