June 16, 2022

Marc Reitter, President and COO
AEP Ohio
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

Dear Mr. Reitter:

We write today with concerns and questions about the recent intentional power outages that continue to affect our constituents and your customers. As elected representatives, we are stewards of the public’s trust, and it is our duty to ensure reliability of essential services and accountability when those systems fail.

As one of the state’s leading utility companies, we believe you have an obligation to reasonably provide customers with access to services and communicate planned outages to limit the human and financial costs shouldered by families, cities and people with medical needs. We respectfully request your prompt attention and responses to our questions below.

When did PJM request load shedding and when did AEP comply?

Why were customers not notified, cities and institutions like hospitals not notified of planned power shutdowns due to grid strain?

Were other electric utilities in other areas of the state and PJM territory required to similarly shed load?

How were blacked out neighborhoods chosen? Can you provide a map that includes street level detail? If areas were chosen because they are most likely to overload the overall system, why is that the case? Is there more demand in these communities? Have there been fewer upgrades to these areas of the grid?

Why were neighborhoods blacked out for so long? Could AEP have chosen to blackout more communities for shorter periods of time so that the burden was not placed on fewer communities for longer time periods?
HB 6 eliminated energy efficiency programs that included incentivizing large employers to participate in demand response programs. What role did demand response programs play in alleviating grid issues? Would incentivizing more demand response programs help further?

The intentional blackouts have affected residents and businesses in enormous ways. What is available to customers to recoup costs? What are you doing to proactively help customers understand how to make claims?

Is there anything AEP will do differently the next time this happens? What is AEP doing to modernize the grid so that situations like this become more preventable?

We find it troubling that AEP has no issue with customer notifications when bills are due, but when customers are faced with historic heat, limited resources and great needs, there seems to be limited or no communication about planned outages that impact the health, safety and welfare of customers. We appreciate your attention to these important matters and believe a further detailed accounting of and investigation into these events is warranted.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristin Boggs  
House District 18

House District 20

Rep. Latyna Humphrey  
House District 26

Rep. Dontavius Jarrells  
House District 25

Rep. David Leland  
House District 22

Rep. Mary Lightbody  
House District 19

Rep. Beth Liston  
House District 21

Rep. Adam Miller  
House District 17

Rep. Allison Russo  
Minority Leader  
House District 24