



August 14, 2024

Chair Jenifer French  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street, 4th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair French,

Reliability in our public utility sector has been a central issue of discussion throughout this General Assembly. The recent storms and tornados in Northeast Ohio—which led to widespread power outages across the region and contributed to Governor DeWine issuing a state of emergency—highlight the urgent need for a modern and reliable grid system that Ohioans can trust.

A recent article by [Cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com) stated that Ohio is falling short in managing power outages compared to other states. Despite significant federal investments in energy infrastructure and the legislature’s purported focus on grid reliability, our state continues to experience disproportionately high rates of outages. While some have suggested a lack of sufficient thermal generation as the cause, that does not explain why Ohio continues to lag behind our fellow PJM members in terms of outage frequency and duration. Meanwhile, our energy mix is heavily dependent on fossil fuel resources that appear to be the source of these outages and reliability issues. This disparity raises critical questions about the effectiveness and reliability of our current energy strategies.

With energy prices rising significantly across the state, it is imperative that customers receive a power supply that justifies the cost of their bills. As members of the Northeast Ohio delegation and House Public Utilities Committee, we are writing to you on behalf of our constituents to ask that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio convene meetings with utility leaders to discuss why Ohio is failing its residents when it comes to power outages. As of yesterday at noon—more than a week after the storms—[1,000 of our residents](#) are still without power. While long term grid solutions are discussed, we also hope the Commission will urge utilities to prioritize and enact substantive consumer protections in the event of prolonged outages such as this one. This could include reimbursements for out-of-pocket losses or credits to customer accounts.

Without immediate and meaningful action, climate change will continue to cause extreme weather and drive up costs for all Ohioans. It is crucial that we address these energy reliability issues promptly to ensure that our residents and businesses have access to dependable, affordable power, particularly when emergencies like the ones witnessed last week happen. We look forward to your response and to collaborating on these pressing matters to achieve a better energy future in Ohio.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Casey Weinstein  
House District 34  
Public Utilities Committee, Ranking Member



Ismail Mohamed  
House District 3



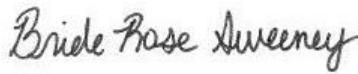
Michael J. Skindell  
House District 13



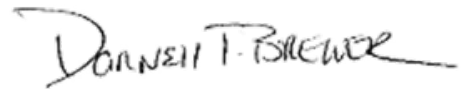
Sean P. Brennan  
House District 14



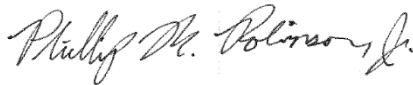
Richard Dell'Aquila  
House District 15



Bride Rose Sweeney  
House District 16



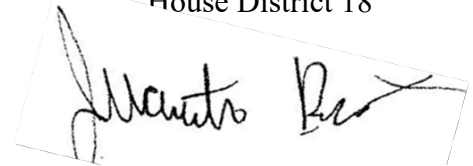
Darnell T. Brewer  
House District 18



Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.  
House District 19



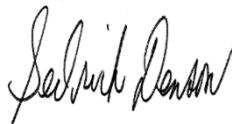
Terrence Upchurch  
House District 20



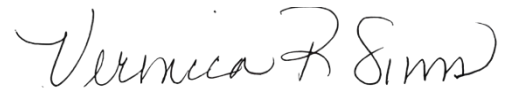
Juanita O. Brent  
House District 22



Daniel P. Troy  
House District 23



Sedrick Denson  
House District 26



Veronica Sims  
House District 33



Joseph A. Miller, III  
House District 53

Cc: Chairman Dick Stein, Ohio House Public Utilities Committee