

# OHIO FAMILIES FIRST: ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PLAN

High energy costs are not inevitable – they are the result of policy failures. It's time to fix them.

**84%**

Gas bill increase in  
the last 3 years

**60%**

Electric bills increase  
– recent years

**\$1.2B**

AEP profit  
last year alone

## THE CRISIS: OHIOANS ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR FAILED OVERSIGHT

56% of Ohioans rate energy costs as an extremely important concern (OEC polls). The City of Columbus has already passed a resolution urging action. It's time the state does the same.

Average Ohio Monthly Gas Bill

~\$230/month (up from \$125 three years ago)

Average Ohio monthly electric bill

\$130-\$180/month – up as much as 60%

### POLICY 1: EMERGENCY UTILITY RATE FREEZE – 12 MONTHS

We are calling on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to immediately freeze all utility rate increases for the next twelve months.

*When families are in an emergency, we act like it.*

**WHAT IT DOES:** A freeze continues current cost-recovery levels for utilities – utilities keep operating, keep getting paid.

**WHY NOW:** PUCO's own staff found AEP demand projections were inflated – yet rate increases were approved anyway. A freeze creates breathingroom for a real assessment.

**WHAT IT COVERS:** Transmission and capacity costs set federally cannot be frozen – but we control what we control at the state level.

**RELIABILITY:** Utilities can fund immediate infrastructure and reliability needs using shareholder dollars – they reported record profits.

**NOT PERMANENT:** This is not a permanent ban on rate cases. Utility companies will still come in for regular reviews under HB 15.

### POLICY 2: \$150 ENERGY DIVIDEND + FAIR SEVERANCE TAX

Ohio's oil and gas industry has extracted finite, irreplaceable resources from our state for decades – while Ohioans pay more every month. We propose a fair severance tax to fund direct relief for every Ohio ratepayer.

#### THE PROBLEM: Ohio's Embarrassing Status Quo

- Ohio charges ~1% on natural gas market value
- Ohio charges ~0.20% on oil market value
- Current combined severance
- + cost recovery: \$72.9M/year
- Ohio's rate is a giveaway while families pay record bills

#### THE FIX: A fair 7% Severance Tax

- 7% flat rate on market value of ALL oil & natural gas extracted
- Generates ~\$665M per year based on last year's production
- 1% of market value continues to fund DNR well regulation & orphan well plugging
- Remaining revenue deposited in new fund – **\$150 annual credit** to all 4.98M investor-owned utility customers

**Skyrocketing costs are not an act of God. They are the result of a rigged system that lets corporations profit while Ohio families go without. These two proposals put Ohioans first.**