



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

November 23, 2022

Via Email – angela.hawkins@puco.ohio.gov

Mr. Gregory Lashutka, Chair
(Department of Aging Appointee per O.R.C. 4901.021(A)(12))
C/O Angela Hawkins, Nominating Council Coordinator
Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Meeting Request for the Public Utilities Commission Nominating Council

Dear Chair Lashutka:

I hope you are well. I am writing to request a meeting of the Nominating Council. I wrote your predecessor twice in the past two years to request a meeting. He declined. My meeting requests are to consider reform given the scandals involving FirstEnergy (now charged with a federal crime) and the former PUCO Chair that the Nominating Council nominated. Respectfully, please exercise your discretion as Nominating Council Chair to promptly call a public meeting of the Council.

For a meeting, the public notice per O.R.C. 4901.021(C) should be sufficient for the Nominating Council to consider reforms of its processes for nominating applicants for appointment as PUCO commissioners and to consider other general business. Among other things, the Nominating Council should decide to *publicly* conduct its interviews of commissioner applicants (instead of using executive session). This matter was discussed in the Council meeting earlier this year, with what seemed an intention for a future resolution. Further, the Nominating Council should reform its application process. It should require more detailed disclosures from applicants about past or present financial relationships with utilities or their affiliates. This latter reform should be a response to the aforesaid former PUCO Chair apparently having a financial relationship with an affiliate of the FirstEnergy utilities.

I have respectfully submitted this meeting request in writing, in the public domain, for the purposes of transparency in the Nominating Council's processes. I invite other members of the Nominating Council to support this request, noting that O.R.C. 4901.021(C) requires the Chair to call the meeting if requested by at least two Council members. Time for reform is slipping away for another year.

Finally, I have copied Angela Hawkins at the PUCO. I ask Ms. Hawkins to please forward this letter to Chair Lashutka and Nominating Council members (as I am not aware of all the contact information). I understand that Ms. Hawkins is the Nominating Council's staff coordinator per O.A.C. 4901:7-1-04(G). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Watkins
Chair, Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board

cc: Nominating Council Members (via distribution by Council Coordinator Angela Hawkins)
Angela Hawkins, Nominating Council Coordinator

Attachment (Council Member Roster from PUCO's website)

**Membership List
PUC Nominating Council
February 2022**

Speaker of the House's Appointee
Steve Cuckler
Columbus

President of the Ohio State Bar Assoc./Designee
Kimberly W. Bojko, Esq.
Columbus

President of the Ohio Municipal League
Patrick Titterton
Troy

Ohio Department of Aging's Appointee
Gregory S. Lashutka
Columbus

Board Chairman of Accountancy Board/Designee
John Patterson
Columbus

Designee for Chairman of State Board of Registration
for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
Megan O'Callaghan
Dublin

President of the Senate's Appointee
Louis Terhar
Cincinnati

Governor's Appointee/Representative of
Regulated Utilities
Cheryl Burchard
Hillard

Director of the Ohio Development Services
Agency/Designee
Matt McClellan
Columbus

Governor's Appointee/Organized Labor
David J. Wondoloski
Broadview Heights

Governor's Appointee/Representative of
The Business Community
Stuart Young
Yellow Springs

Chairman of Ohio Consumers' Counsel
Governing Board
Michael Watkins
Lima