

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 5/15/17

NAME: JUANITA M. THOMAS

ORGANIZATION: WESTERN HILLS COMMUNITY ACTION
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: CO-LEADER

ADDRESS: 3356 STARHAVEN TRAIL

CITY: BRIDGE TOWN STATE: OH ZIP: 45248

TELEPHONE: 513-478-6261

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION _____

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): 178

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE ☒ THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

I FAVOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT AND FREE MARKET COMPETITION. I WILL STATE WHAT EXPERIENCE LED TO THIS STRONGLY HELD BELIEF.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES ☒ NO _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 5 MIN

House Public Utilities Committee, Honorable Bill Seitz, Chairman

**Nita Thomas, Western Hills Community Action,
Opponent Testimony to House Bill 178, Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

Chairman Sietz and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition today to House Bill 178.

I am Nita Thomas with Western Hills Community Action. We are a group of concerned citizens from the western side of Hamilton County, who work together to promote public policies that foster economic growth and prosperity for our community and for Ohio. I will be testifying today from the perspective of a co-leader of Western Hills Community Action, and from the perspective of someone who has had personal experience with deregulation and the benefits of competition.

I had a career in the telecommunications industry with AT&T before, during and after the dust settled in that industry's deregulation. At the time deregulation was looming, I had grave concerns, because I believed regulation was needed to provide reliable, affordable and ecologically friendly telecommunications service.

When the telecommunications industry deregulated, I was forced to face my concerns, and I came through the process with a completely different perspective. Despite my fears, I was able to stay employed by being flexible and willing to move from one office location to another and from one department to another. This process broadened my horizons and led me to departments (i.e. network engineering) I would never have otherwise ventured into. I believe that forcing competition into the telecommunications industry was a good decision and brought about many great innovations which resulted in jobs in areas never before explored or envisioned. Though I don't want to minimize the transition pains that any family felt at the time, the facts are that deregulation led to technological advances, lower costs, and telecommunications options today that we never could have dreamed of 20 years ago.

That experience helped shape my now staunch belief that markets work best, and consumers benefit most when the government allows competition to work. That belief is one of the driving reasons behind why I helped found and why I co-lead Western Hills Community Action. It is also why I am here today.

I, and the members of Western Hills Community Action, believe that same principal of competition applies in the power generation market. Though Ohio's power generation market deregulated several years ago, utility companies continue to ask for subsidies, special fees, and bailouts that interfere with the free market, give these companies a leg up, and discourage private investment in power generation in Ohio. We ask you to please say no to this government intervention, and let the free market work.

While I and the members of our organization do not live in FirstEnergy's territory, and would not be subject to direct rate hikes from this legislation, we are concerned about the impact this legislation could have on all ratepayers across Ohio if it drives investment in lower cost power generation out of the state. And, we staunchly oppose this legislation because it is anti-free market and anti-competition.

To demonstrate the opposition to this legislation in Southwest, Ohio, over the past few days Western Hills Community Action has collected the names of the 153 below-listed individuals who also oppose the legislation, and who support our efforts today in asking this committee to reject House Bill 178.

Sharon Beltz	45011	Butler	Beverly Heath	45236	Hamilton
Scott Cortner	45011	Butler	John VanHise	45236	Hamilton
Janice Jones	45011	Butler	Claire Butler	45238	Hamilton
Robert Neeley	45011	Butler	David Might	45238	Hamilton
Carol Parker	45011	Butler	Elizabeth Mueller	45238	Hamilton
Louise Reed	45011	Butler	Pamela Nichting	45238	Hamilton
Richard Inamn	45011	Butler	Marcella Piersall	45238	Hamilton
Adriana Inman	45011	Butler	James Queen	45238	Hamilton
Sharon Lackey	45013	Butler	Donna Ray	45238	Hamilton
Cynthia Mueller	45013	Butler	Gary Gilbert	45238	Hamilton
Brian Stumpf	45013	Butler	Bradford Bove	45239	Hamilton
Linda Thompson	45013	Butler	Mary Rhodes	45240	Hamilton
Deborah Armor	45014		Meridith Greco	45242	Hamilton
Janet Couch	45014		Pamela Luckerman	45242	Hamilton
Debbie Fescina Rulon	45014		Jay Groenke	45243	Hamilton
Kenneth Hart	45014		Kathleen Peters	45243	Hamilton
Debbie Moore	45014		Judith Strong	45243	Hamilton
Helen Proffitt	45014		Richard Biersdorfer	45247	Hamilton
Brenda Padgett	45044		Robin Rust	45247	Hamilton
Kerri Ryan	45044		Tim Sandlin	45247	Hamilton
Kenneth Sparks	45044		Waymwn Withrow	45247	Hamilton
Patrick Thomas	45044		Beverly Bachman	45247	Hamilton
Dereda Granda	45050		Joseph Platt	45247	Hamilton
Elizabeth Ledbetter	45050		Keith McMahan	45248	Hamilton
Mark Riddell	45050		Audrey Copeland	45251	Hamilton
Rodney Taylor	45050		Sandra Earls	45251	Hamilton
Terry Lynch	45053	Butler	Tammy Robbins	45251	Hamilton
Jenna Willis	45067	Butler	Paul Wells	45251	Hamilton
Marc Grilliot	45069		Betty Thompson	45252	Hamilton
Joan Johnson	45069		Doug Ventre	45236	Hamilton
Carol Werling	45069		Kate Barnett	45240	Hamilton
Jason Koslow	45069	Butler	Joyce Savage	45241	Hamilton
David Henn	45036	Warren	Ernie Duff	45314	Hamilton
John Brinker	45036	Warren	Mike Gallagher	45248	Hamilton
Lester Spencer	45036	Warren	Lauren Menage	45202	Hamilton
Eric Thomas	45036	Warren	Solomon Richardson	45206	Hamilton

Roberto Vasquez	45036	Warren	Lynn Calhoun	45215	Hamilton
Sandy Wilhelm	45039		Debra Marcum	45215	Hamilton
Glenn Rose	45040	Warren	Patricia Moerdyke	45215	Hamilton
David Simon	45040	Warren	Lynda Reeves	45215	Hamilton
Lynda Steinhauer	45040	Warren	Ruth Sanders	45215	Hamilton
Floyd Stevens	45040	Warren	Catherine Dunker	45216	Hamilton
Debe Deehan	45065	Warren	Jeni Bachman	45216	Hamilton
Debora McHaffie	45140		Virginia Snyder	45219	Hamilton
Douglas Ogden	45140		David Kull	45223	Hamilton
Andrea Self	45140		Sharon Martin	45223	Hamilton
Jon Slone	45140		James Schaefer	45223	Hamilton
Robert Willenbrink	45140		Lee Williamson	45223	Hamilton
Ruth Assalone	45230	Hamilton	Margie Arnett	45224	Hamilton
Eleanor Childress	45230	Hamilton	William Moore JR.	45224	Hamilton
Ruth Denise Mayer	45230	Hamilton	Katherine Cox	45227	Hamilton
Jerry Sheppard	45230	Hamilton	Carole Hignite	45227	Hamilton
Mary Heffron	45239	Hamilton	Deborah Jackson	45227	Hamilton
Daniel Regenold	45246		Debbie Van Hise	45227	Hamilton
Edward Barton	45244		Joni Fox	45234	Hamilton
Jonathon Howes	45244		Lolita Morris	45237	Hamilton
Mary McGinnis	45244		Shirley Reichman	45213	Hamilton
Jill Wiltberger	45244		Linda R. O'Kane	45224	Hamilton
Tom King	45249		Gregory Senior	45102	Clermont
Jacque Beck	45255		Debbie Evans	45103	Clermont
Susan Unger	45103	Hamilton	Barbara Jones	45103	Clermont
James Green	45052	Hamilton	Sean Jones	45103	Clermont
Michelle Ross	45204	Hamilton	Rockie Rogers	45103	Clermont
April Collins	45205	Hamilton	Elizabeth Buxton	45106	
Robert Bonham	45211	Hamilton	Mark Corbin	45122	
Deborah Brothers-Schuler	45211	Hamilton	William Pennington	45122	
Dwayne Burris	45211	Hamilton	Jeff Brierly	45150	Clermont
Timothy Cupp	45211	Hamilton	Cecilia Kells	45150	Clermont
John Ferguson	45211	Hamilton	Dave Lingo	45150	Clermont
Catherine Lucas	45211	Hamilton	Julia Meyer	45150	Clermont
Charles Mergy Jr	45211	Hamilton	Tracey Sparks	45150	Clermont
Ruth Tucker	45211	Hamilton	James Desalvo	45245	Clermont
Glenna Miller	45218	Hamilton	Richard Parks	45245	Clermont
Mark Neumann	45233	Hamilton	Carol Parry	45245	Clermont
Joyce Tippitt	45233	Hamilton	Raymond Carson	45102	Clermont
Joyce Tippitt	45233	Hamilton	Norma Murphy	45103	Clermont
Gena Bell	45236	Hamilton			