

Chairman of the Board
JANE M. NEAL
Senior Vice President, AMG Vanadium, LLC

President
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May 26, 2021

The Honorable Jim Hoops
Chairman
Energy and Public Utilities Committee
77 S. High St., 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Bill 260 – Written Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Hoops:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 260 (HB 260). HB 260 requires the refund of electric utility charges that have been found to be improper by the Supreme Court of Ohio or any other relevant authority. These refunds shall take place within one year of the final determination.

HB 260 offers a solution to put illegitimately collected money back in the pockets of customers. The amount of above-market charges that have been collected from customers, then later deemed to be unlawful by the Supreme Court of Ohio, is significant. The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has identified more than \$1.5 billion in wrongful charges since 2009.

If Ohio utilities are authorized to collect charges that are later deemed to be unlawful by the Court, HB 260 requires the money to be refunded to customers, not retained by utilities as a windfall. While OMA believes that the PUCO already has the authority to protect consumers by ordering refunds through the utilities' tariffs; HB 260, if enacted, will codify the PUCO's authority to order refunds and will place the utilities on notice that charges will be collected from customers subject to refund if the charges are later found to be unlawful.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I'd be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have; please contact me at rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Brundrett".

Rob Brundrett
Managing Director, Public Policy Services