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October 8, 2025

Chairman Holmes & members of the House Energy Committee,

On behalf of AEP Ohio, I write this letter to you to express AEP Ohio's support for House Bill 427 (HB 427), legislation that would allow AEP Ohio to build upon our existing, PUCO-approved voluntary demand-response pilot program for residential customers.

Since beginning the pilot program in April 2025, over 18,000 customers have voluntarily enrolled. HB 427 would build upon AEP Ohio's successful pilot by providing clarity around our ability to offer voluntary demand response programs and allow us to extend the program beyond residential customers to small commercial customers.

As this committee knows, the demand for electricity is currently forecasted to continue to exponentially grow in our region. And on days when electricity demand is highest, AEP Ohio's current residential demand-response program allows the utility to initiate an energy conservation event. For example, during the 2025 summer, ten energy conservation events were called with an average of 71% of customers enrolled in our Smart Thermostat Demand Response program choosing to participate. The latest event resulted in approximately 16.46 megawatts shifted from peak times, and the number of participants has grown since then, increasing AEP Ohio's ability to reduce demand in the future.

It is important to emphasize that customers must voluntarily enroll in the program in order for AEP Ohio to take any such action. If they choose to enroll, customers are also compensated for their participation, and customers can override any adjustments to their thermostat.

AEP Ohio has a long and successful history of offering beneficial programs, and HB 427 would continue to allow us to help our customers reduce their demand for electricity during periods of peak grid usage, if they so choose to.

I would like to thank Representative Klopfenstein for introducing this legislation, and we support its passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Frank M. Strigari
Vice President, External Affairs
AEP Ohio