

**HB 276 Proponent Testimony**  
**Nate Filler, Director, Government Relations**  
**The Dayton Power & Light Company**  
**May 15, 2018**

Chairman Bacon and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, please accept the below remarks on behalf of the Dayton Power and Light Company (DP&L) in support of HB 276.

As one of Ohio's four electric distribution utilities, DP&L safely and efficiently provides distribution and transmission services to approximately 520,000 customers located in West Central Ohio. We are proud of our 100+ years of service to the residents and businesses in our 24-county service territory.

Dayton Power & Light is extremely supportive of HB276 "Utility Workers Protection Legislation" which will expand the offense of aggravated menacing to prohibit threatening a utility worker with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility. We commend Rep. Rezabek and Rep. Greenspan for their leadership in introducing this bill and are very appreciative of all the House members who unanimously voted (94-3) this measure out earlier this year.

We thought it would be helpful to provide the Senate Judiciary members examples of incidents of workplace violence in the DP&L Service Territory that supports the need for HB 276. The following examples are what we have recorded over the past few years:

- 2013 (Oct) – Greene County, OH – Homeowner shoots "warning shots" at DPL lineman performing troubleshooting in Greene County
- 2014 (June) – Sidney, OH - DPL Collections – Firearm brandished during a no-pay disconnect in Sidney (no injuries, homeowner arrested)
- 2014 (August) – Dayton, OH - DPL Collections – Firearm brandished during a no-pay disconnect in Dayton (no injuries, homeowner arrested)
- 2014 (Sept) – DPL Collections – Assault during a no-pay disconnect in DeGraff, Ohio
- 2014 (Oct) – DPL Line Clearance – A firearm was brandished during vegetation management by contractors in Logan County. Law Enforcement escort was required (no injuries).
- 2017 (March) – Dayton, OH – Meter Reading – A customer aggressively approached a meter reader parked in his driveway to read an electric meter with a steel rod and yelling at the employee to get off his property. As the meter reader attempted to leave the customer repeatedly blocked his vehicle from being able to exit the driveway. A few days later arrangements were made to have a police escort to keep peace while a DP&L technician exchanged the meter at the customer's premise to an ERT meter.
- 2017 (May) – West Central Ohio - Customer Collections/Disconnection notice. The customer was unable to pay and pushed the contractor. Three other males at the premise approached the contractor. Retreated to a safe location and contacted dispatch. Dispatch

contacted the local sheriff who met the contractor at the premise to keep order while the disconnect occurred. After leaving, the contractor observed a vehicle behind him approaching at a very fast speed and attempted to run him off the road. The male in the vehicle was yelling out the window at the contractor that if he or any other employee came onto their property they would kill him/her. The contractor drove away from the area and called 911 to report the incident.

- 2017 (June) – Dayton, OH - A contractor went to a residential premise to collect or disconnect on a past due bill. A male at the residence indicated that if he disconnected the power he would shoot him, then drive to the DP&L Dayton Service Building and kill everyone there. Customer stated he was an ex-marine and unless they shoot him first he will kill everyone. DP&L Security and 911 Services were contacted. Law Enforcement warned the homeowner against further threats.

- 2017 (June) – Dayton, OH - The contractor went to the premise to collect the past due balance or disconnect the service. The customer was unable to make payment and requested that the contractor wait while he went to the ATM to get payment. As the contractor walked toward the meter the customer pushed the contractor away from the meter and proceeded to get in the contractor's face and began screaming. 911 was called. Three officers responded and maintained order while the contractor disconnected the service.

- 2017 (June) – New Carlisle, OH - The customer was unable to make payment. After the field tech pulled the meter to disconnect service the customer came out of the home to confront the contractor with a broom. The customer lunged toward the contractor and took a swing at him with the broom handle. The broom handle struck the meter and knocked it out of the contractor's hand. The contractor retreated to his car, got to a safe location, and called for a police escort. The police escorted the contractor to the meter to install a new meter and secure the meter socket. The customer was billed for the cost of the damaged meter.

We trust this information will be helpful to the Committee when considering and discussing the merits of HB 276. We ask for the Committee's support for this very important legislation that will help protect our utility workers and create a safer environment to help us safely and efficiently deliver electricity to our area residents and businesses. Our ability to safely restore and keep the lights on is invaluable to Dayton area residents and businesses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.