



FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Attorney General Candidate Rep. Crossman Supports Call for Independent Investigation into Rolling Blackouts

Columbus, OH – In response to reports of the Public Utility Commission of Ohio’s (PUCO) inquiry into the blackouts forced on central Ohio by AEP during an earlier summer heatwave and the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel call for further investigation, **State Representative Jeff Crossman** (D-Parma), the Democratic nominee for Attorney General, issued the following statement:

“I have no hope that PUCO will ask the tough question needed to understand why AEP is screwing Ohio ratepayers by turning off their power amid heat waves. **AEP and other energy company billionaire executives have funneled Mike DeWine thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, so we can not expect DeWine’s hand-picked PUCO chair to go after his donors to the fullest extent of the law. Therefore, I fully support the call by the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an independent investigation to make sure Ohioans are receiving the protection they deserve,**” said Rep. Crossman. “Ohioans are already paying exorbitant fees every month so that utilities deliver power when it's actually needed, and in June, when people needed power, AEP executives failed Ohio. AEP's leadership needs to stop making excuses and blaming ‘mother nature.’ Heat waves should be expected, and AEP is receiving taxpayer money intended to specifically ensure these types of drastic mistakes don't happen. I applaud the Consumers' Counsel for holding PUCO and AEP accountable while Mike DeWine and Dave Yost fail to do their jobs. **Maybe if DeWine and Yost were not so afraid of holding their donors accountable, Ohioans wouldn’t have to worry about our senior population dying during heat waves.**”

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