



May 27, 2009

Governor Ted Strickland
State House
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Strickland:

I wrote you on February 5, 2009, with the results of a public records review of Ohio Department of Development files concerning the proposed AMP-Ohio coal plant in Meigs County.

The documents included an exchange of letters, which included the assertion by an Ohio state official in 2005 that "The State of Ohio is in competition with the State of West Virginia for this project," and the reply from AMP-Ohio's Marc Gerken, where he said "As you note in your letter, alternative sites and options outside the State of Ohio are being considered should the organization determine it is not in the best interests of our members to site the facility at our preferred location." I said it seemed odd that three years later, Ohio would still not have offered AMP-Ohio an incentive package, and AMP-Ohio would still be waiting patiently. If West Virginia were competing for the plant, why did AMP-Ohio not accept West Virginia's incentives, which would certainly be better than nothing?

When you neither replied nor acknowledged receipt of my letter, we decided to check with West Virginia officials to get their side of the story. I have attached a copy of a memo summarizing this inquiry.

We found that the State of West Virginia development officials have nothing, not one document, in their files about the "competition" between Ohio and West Virginia over the proposed AMP-Ohio coal plant.

This leads to a series of questions:

- Did Ohio officials simply take the word of AMP-Ohio officials that a competition existed, without any independent evidence? If Ohio was trying to win this competition, isn't it standard practice to find out what the State of West Virginia was offering in the way of incentives?

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- Do Ohio officials still believe that such a competition exists? If at some point, Ohio officials found out that there was in fact no competition with West Virginia, when and how did they find out? And if they did find out, why are they still working on an incentive package for an outfit that apparently led them to believe that a competition existed?
- Why, three and a half years after negotiations began, has the State of Ohio still not presented AMP-Ohio with a subsidy package? When does the Strickland Administration plan to make the offer?

Sincerely,



Sandy Buchanan
Executive Director

Att: AMP-Ohio's proposed coal plant and West Virginia, memo, May 4, 2009