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## **Governor Ted Strickland Statement on House Substitute for Senate Bill 221**

**Columbus, Ohio** – Governor Ted Strickland today issued the following statement regarding the House substitute for Senate Bill 221:

“After reviewing the House’s substitute for Senate Bill 221, I am today announcing that I would veto the bill if it passes in its current form because it would threaten our ability to both keep and create jobs in Ohio. Specifically:

1. The bill does not protect consumers against unwarranted and unjust rate increases. It lacks a clear and complete framework for determining rate increases.
2. The bill allows immediate and unfettered access for FirstEnergy to go to market, exposing businesses and consumers in Cleveland, Toledo and Akron to the risk of skyrocketing electricity prices.
3. The bill allows unfettered access for other utilities to go to market starting in 2013, exposing businesses and consumers across Ohio to the risk of skyrocketing electricity prices.
4. The bill prohibits agreements between utilities and businesses, which are vital economic development tools, approved by the Public Utilities Commission and transparent to the public; but it allows “side deals,” which are secret, making it impossible for consumers or the media to determine whether such deals are in the public interest.
5. The bill does not provide sufficient incentives to ensure a reliable supply of electricity.
6. The bill prohibits the PUCO from advocating for Ohioans before Congress and at the federal regulatory level.

While there are other concerns I have with this bill, I am not concerned about portions of the bill related to advanced energy. In fact, if the House and Senate pass an advanced energy bill, including an advanced energy portfolio with benchmarks and energy efficiency standards, I would enthusiastically sign it.

I also want to make clear that I am making this statement today because it is my understanding that the House plans to begin voting on this measure on Monday, and I felt it was important for legislators to know my position before then.

There has been much hard work on energy policy over the last year. I appreciate the work that legislative leaders have contributed to this effort, and I remain committed to giving my full time and effort to arriving at an agreement that all Ohioans can be proud of.”