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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMA Urges Senate to Press PJM's Haque for Answers on Forecasts Driving Ohio Power Costs

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As PJM Interconnection Executive Vice President Asim Haque, a former chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, appears before the Ohio Senate Energy Committee today, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) is urging lawmakers to demand real answers about inflated load forecasts, speculative data center demand and the risk of forcing Ohio customers to pay for power infrastructure based on demand that may never show up.

That risk is not hypothetical. On American Electric Power's (AEP) second-quarter 2025 earnings call, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Trevor Mihalik told investors that, under AEP's commercial-load protections, "it doesn't really matter to us financially whether that load is actually coming on or not."

"That should stop every lawmaker in Ohio in their tracks," said Ryan Augsburger, president of the OMA. "If it does not really matter to the utility financially whether the load shows up or not, lawmakers should ask a basic question: who is carrying the risk? Ohio manufacturers and families know the answer. Customers do."

Ohio has seen what happens when utility narratives go unchallenged. House Bill 6 was sold under the banner of urgency and public need. What followed was corruption, deception and years of fallout for Ohio customers. OMA said lawmakers should remember that history before letting another utility-driven panic campaign shape billion-dollar energy decisions.

"Ohio has paid before when utility insiders manufactured urgency and customers got stuck with the bill," Augsburger said. "The Senate should not accept a sales pitch dressed up as a forecast. It should demand proof."

OMA said lawmakers should press for transparency, independent scrutiny and fair cost allocation before Ohio customers are locked into billions of dollars in new costs.

"This is the oldest trick in the utility playbook," Augsburger said. "Exaggerate demand, demand more infrastructure, collect a return and send the bill to captive customers. Ohio lawmakers should shut that play down right now."

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed

solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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