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DISTRICT 32

COMMITTEES:

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COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

March 14, 2022

Kent Chandler, Chairman Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601 RECEIVED

MAR 21 2022

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## Dear Chairman Chandler:

I am state senator for the 32<sup>nd</sup> district in Missouri which represents Jasper, Newton, and Dade counties. Much of my district is served by Liberty Utilities as in my own home. I serve on the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee which has utilities jurisdiction and, earlier in my career worked for Commonwealth Edison in Illinois for about ten years. As you consider the sale of Kentucky Power to Liberty, I understand you are balancing a wide range of interests and complex issues. As a Liberty customer and as a legislator, I would like to offer the following for your consideration.

I had the headquarters for Empire District Electric in my district and experienced the transition from Empire to Liberty Utilities. As they are a Canadian company, I was not familiar with at the time. The transition process was fairly seamless for customers, and I believe there was a minimum of disruption to their workforce as the old Empire was integrated into Liberty's structure and under their management. Liberty continues to be a partner to the region in efforts to foster economic growth, encouraging expansion of existing business and attracting new businesses and jobs to the region. I am confident the company will do the same and contribute not only jobs, but support and service to the Kentucky communities that will benefit from their investment.

As a state senator serving on our utilities committee and as a senator who drafts and carries utility legislation, I have worked with Liberty on a frequent basis. Their staff is professional and responds quickly to our calls on both constituent issues and utility policy concerns. Liberty personnel are particularly good at keeping my office in the loop on constituent issues and are very responsive and open to my requests concerning utility legislation. Liberty has the goal of ensuring the ongoing delivery of cost-effective, reliable energy, and of improving the resiliency and security of their infrastructure to meet the changing needs of customers and unanticipated events. I see no reason to believe they would not extend these same principles and professionalism to meeting the needs of Kentucky customers, legislators, and regulators.

Kent Chandler, Chairman March 14, 2022 Page Two

Based on my own experience here in Missouri, I believe Liberty has proven that it can successfully transition customers from an acquired company into their company's own management and operating system, while maintaining operational excellence and continuing to be a trusted valued community partner. Kentucky Power customers will be well served by Liberty Utilities if this acquisition occurs.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-2173.

Sincerely,

Bill White

Senator – District 32

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Bill Whize

Chairman, Seniors, Families, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Missouri State Senate

Proudly Serving the 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

BW/gr