

Good Evening Council Members,

Unfortunately, I am out of the country today and am unable to attend today's meeting in person. Although it may be too late to enter my remarks into the record, I still wish to communicate with you about this very important issue.

As the owner of a clean and environmentally friendly business located in the Oberlin Industrial Park, I urge you to return the funds that were collected in excess of those needed to produce the power that we purchased. My understanding is that the Oberlin power authority is intended to operate as a nonprofit organization. Clearly, our business, other businesses, and residential consumers were charged more than we should have been as the REC's provided an unintended additional revenue stream, creating what is in effect a "profit". If the profit is used for any purpose other than returning it to the ratepayers, it becomes a tax that is collected from power consumers and then spent according to counsel's wishes. That would be in enormous breach of trust!

Based on my discussions with other business owners, I've found that Oberlin's electric power is significantly higher than many other communities. This is due to the "green power" commitment that council has made. We ratepayers have borne that additional cost without complaint. But hasn't the RECs income been derived solely because we paid for it?

Please also consider that these additional funds collected by the city put Oberlin businesses at a competitive disadvantage by having to pay more for our power, which is already in excess of our competitors. I can only imagine how a business looking to locate in Oberlin would view this issue. If the city was to, in affect collect an extra tax through the power utility without a vote, what would be next? That's certainly not the least bit business friendly.

I'm certain that many people have great ideas as to how to put this money to use. The problem is, it's not their money. We were charged more than we should have been in order for the nonprofit power utility to provide power we need. I think it's that simple.

With kind regards,
Rob Lando - AgriNomix