



# SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS COALITION

Air Conditioning Contractors of America/Ohio and Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of Ohio

## Electric Re-regulation

### **Issue:**

The Specialty Contractors Coalition, especially our legislative agents, Palmer McNeal and Kitty Zwissler played an active role with Sen. Schuler, R-Hamilton County, and Rep. John Hagan, R-Alliance, and their committees with a focus on transparency of funds which was in the original Bill. We anticipated that this would reinforce the enforcement mandates to the PUCO under the former legislation regarding this issue - to safeguard our contractors, small businessmen, many of them 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> generation contractors, against cross-subsidization and enforce the corporate separation language.

### **Our Concerns:**

In the negotiation toward closure and agreement on the Alternative Energy issues in the Bill, the transparency language was dropped, and along with it the safeguards our contractors counted on for the future of their small businesses. It has been our observation that the PUCO has either been negligent or extremely secretive because we've seen absolutely no evidence of any PUCO enforcement efforts.

### **Specialty Contractors Position:**

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Ohio Chapter, and the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association, Ohio Chapter, are anxious to level the playing field for all small businesses who are involved in plumbing, piping, heating, refrigeration installation and repair and believe that the for-profit utilities have taken advantage of, and utilized training, equipment, name recognition, and their very extensive customer list to offer insurance warranties to customers in situations where no warranty is needed (i.e., replacement of water lines that are made of materials that have a 100 year lifetime; water heater replacement that cannot possibly be provided at below cost available to the small business contractor).

We urge the Legislature to oversee the enforcement of the law by the PUCO related to corporate separation between the regulated transmission segment and the for-profit subsidiaries who are in the contracting business.