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RETIREE HEALTH CARE FOR UWUA LOCAL 270

WHEREAS: The Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), Local 270 has negotiated retiree healthcare coverage on behalf of their members for over sixty-five years; and

WHEREAS: In a letter dated August 5, 2013, FirstEnergy stated it has no intention of sharing in the cost of health care coverage for union retirees, current AND future, after April 30th 2017; and

WHEREAS: This dramatic shift in policy would have a crippling effect on the retirees of the Cleveland and Ashtabula Division of Local 270, and all active members when they retire – approximately 1100 workers in all; and

WHEREAS: FirstEnergy, during recent negotiations with Local 270, proposed the end of retiree health care coverage, and despite the union's fourteen counter-proposals, did not propose any options for the current retirees to offset the cost of health care; and

WHEREAS: Utility work is inherently dangerous, physically demanding, and workers are exposed to known human carcinogens; and

WHEREAS: FirstEnergy has a moral obligation to both its active and retired workers, and they should fulfill that obligation and reinstate health care cost sharing for already-affected retirees and cease its stated plan to end shared cost coverage for the retirees of The Cleveland and Ashtabula Division.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO supports The Utility Workers Union of America Local 270 by demanding FirstEnergy fulfill the moral obligation to its active members and retirees by continuing to share the cost of health care coverage.

Submitted by: UWUA Local 270