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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Columbus and Cincinnati to Argue Against Collection of HB 6 Fees

COLUMBUS – Today, the cities of Columbus and Cincinnati will make the case that Energy Harbor, formerly known as FirstEnergy Solutions, should not be allowed to begin collecting fees from Ohio ratepayers as the cities’ lawsuit against the scandal-ridden utility makes its way through court.

“Ohioans are on the hook for nearly \$1 billion in new fees on their utility bills because of a law passed through well-documented acts of bribery and deception,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We must protect Ohio residents from being forced to spend their hard-earned dollars on this corrupt bailout. Without immediate action, fees will start being collected at the beginning of next year. We hope the court recognizes the urgency of this issue and stops these fees from ever being collected.”

In October, Columbus and Cincinnati filed a lawsuit seeking to strike down HB 6 as unconstitutional and protect Ohio residents from nearly \$1 billion in new fees imposed by the utility over the next six years. Without immediate action, the utility will start collecting the fees imposed by HB 6 on January 1, 2021.

A preliminary injunction hearing to halt the fee collection will take place in front of Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Chris Brown.

WHAT: Preliminary injunction hearing on HB 6 lawsuit

WHEN: TODAY, Monday, December 21 at 1:30 PM

TO WATCH LIVE: Please reach out to Faith Oltman at FBoltman@columbus.gov for a link

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