Fairfield County Board of County Commissioners Lancaster, Ohio Press Release, for immediate release, March 20, 2014

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners
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## Fairfield County Townships and Villages to Vote on Energy Aggregation

Lancaster, Ohio – The villages of Millersport, Rushville, and Thurston as well as Berne, Richland, and Walnut townships will have issues on the May 6<sup>th</sup> ballot for an energy aggregation program. The goal of the energy aggregation is saving for citizens. The savings expected are roughly 20% of energy generation charges, or about \$115 per household per year. The Fairfield County Commissioners will be serving as the program administrator in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. Palmer Energy, a partner with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, is acting as the program provider.

Commissioner Kiger stated, "The Energy Aggregation program is a great way to help our people save money during these tough times. I encourage all individuals in the three townships and villages to vote for it."

According to Ohio law, local communities are allowed to bring their citizens together to buy electricity as a group and negotiate the terms, conditions and price of the electric supply on the group's behalf. This type of group buying power is an effective way to obtain a lower electricity rate for all the group members.

Most governmental aggregation programs are structured so that all eligible residents and small business customers in the community are automatically enrolled. Residents who don't want to participate must then actively "opt-out" of the program – which means they choose not to be included. An opt-out program can only be implemented if a majority of the voters approve the ballot issue in a primary or general election.

If the issues pass, opt out material will be sent to all qualifying households in the townships and villages participating.

Information sessions regarding the program will be held on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 210 East Main Street in Lancaster.

Additional information about electric aggregation can also be obtained by contacting the PUCO at (800) 686-PUCO (7826) or visiting their website at www.PUCO.ohio.gov.