



DAVID S. HAFFNER
PRESIDENT
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Leggett & Platt
INCORPORATED

May 27, 2005

Edward Hurley
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave.
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Mr. Hurley:

It has come to my attention that Nicor has proposed an increase in their distribution rates to gas transportation customers. These increases, if approved, will result in a significant rise in the Nicor utility charges that will negatively impact at least seven manufacturing facilities that are owned by Leggett & Platt, Incorporated. I am referring specifically to Nicor Rate Case Docket No. 04-0779.

Natural gas is used in our manufacturing processes and constitutes a significant expense. I'm certain that I don't need to explain how the rise in natural gas costs have affected our business. Permitting Nicor to increase its distribution rates would only serve to exacerbate that impact. Competition from overseas manufacturers with access to lower labor costs and cheaper energy is an ongoing threat to our domestic manufacturing efforts. The goal of Leggett & Platt is to remain competitive with these offshore manufacturers and thus preserve American jobs. At the present time Leggett & Platt employs 1,527 full time people in the State of Illinois with a corresponding payroll in excess of 45 million dollars annually. Relocating facilities to lower operating cost environments is not an attractive prospect, for us or the State of Illinois.

I would ask that you closely scrutinize the pending rate increase request as presented by Nicor and consider the overall financial impact that it would place on the companies that are located in the Nicor service territory.

Respectfully,

LEGGETT & PLATT, INCORPORATED

David S. Haffner
President
and Chief Operating Officer

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