

Resolution #3518

Expressing support for the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Council (OCC) and urging the Ohio Legislature to preserve the mission of the OCC by restoring funding to their budget; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, in 1976, the OCC was created by the Ohio Attorney General Assembly to represent the interests of the Ohio's residential utility customers in matters relating to their public utility services; electric, natural gas, water and telephone; and

WHEREAS, funded solely by assessments on utilities and not by taxes, the OCC budget does not affect the State's General Revenue Fund; and

WHEREAS, the OCC has a current operating budget of approximately \$8.5 million per year; however under the proposed biennial budget, the OCC budget would be reduced to \$4.1 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the OCC staff, which includes attorneys, accountants, economists, engineers, investigators, and other highly skilled professionals participate in legal proceedings, analyze utility issues, educate customers, resolve informal complaints relating to utility services through the highly effective Consumer Call Center, and advocates on behalf of Ohio's residential households; and

WHEREAS, in the current biennium, the OCC has saved customers \$54.8 million directly through its advocacy, and an additional \$1.9 billion in shared savings with other partners and furthermore, during the past 35 years the OCC has saved utility customers \$10 billion in avoided utility costs, thus the savings have far exceeded the costs; and

WHEREAS, any budget reduction to the OCC would not go back to the taxpayers, but would go to the utility companies, and the proposed budget cuts would have a detrimental impact on the residential utility customers of the State of Ohio and the ability of the Office of the OCC to effectively advocate on their behalf;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Barnesville of Belmont County, Ohio, all members thereof concurring:

Section 1. That Council of the Village of Barnesville recognizes the vital work of the OCC as a strong consumer advocate and the only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility consumers.

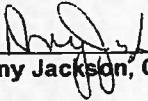
Section 2. That Council of the Village of Barnesville also recognizes that statewide, all departments must endure some level of cuts to their budget; however we are urging the Ohio Legislature to place a more reasonable cut so as to preserve the mission of the OCC.

Section 3. That this resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and property of the Village, and for the further reason that this resolution is required to be immediately effective in order for the General Assembly to enact budget legislation by June 30, 2011.


Thomas E. Michelli, Mayor

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Clerk of Council of the Village of Barnesville, hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by Barnesville Village Council at a regular meeting on the 23rd day of May, 2011.



Amy Jackson, Clerk of Council