

RESOLUTION NO. 88 (10-11)

A Resolution expressing support for the office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and urging the Ohio Legislature to preserve the mission of the OCC by restoring funding to their budget.

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel was created by the Ohio General Assembly to represent the interests of 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 Ohio Consumers' Counsel's budget does not affect the State's General Revenue Fund; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel 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,

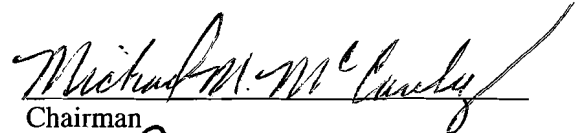
WHEREAS, in the current biennium, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has saved customers \$54.8 million directly through its advocacy, and an additional \$1.9 billion in shared savings with other partners and furthermore, during the past 35 years the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has saved utility customers \$10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

WHEREAS, any budget reduction to the Ohio Consumers' Counsel 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 Ohio Consumers' Counsel to effectively advocate on their behalf; now therefore,

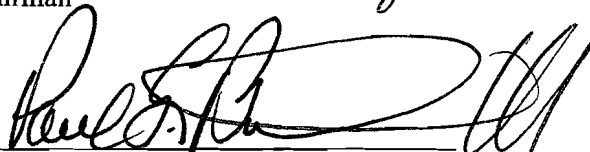
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA, OHIO:

- Section 1: That the Marietta City Council does hereby recognize the vital work of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and the only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility consumers.
- Section 2: That the Marietta City Council 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 reduction so as to preserve the mission of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.
- Section 3: That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and local representatives of the General Assembly.
- Section 4: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Introduced by the Special Utilities Committee, Michael M. McCauley, Chairman.


Chairman

Passed this 2nd day of June, 2011.


President of Council

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council

Approved this 2nd day of June, 2011.


Mayor

First Reading May 19, 2011

Second Reading May 24, 2011

Third Reading June 2, 2011