



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

City Manager

May 11, 2011

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
Attn: Paul E. Kostyu, Ph.D.
10 W. Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Paul:

On Monday, May 9 Oakwood City Council approved a resolution expressing support for the work of the Ohio Consumer's Counsel. Enclosed is a signed copy.

On behalf of the citizens of Oakwood, thank you for your work in advocating for fair and appropriate utility rates and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Klopsch".

Norbert S. Klopsch
City Manager

NSK:cg
enclosure
cc: Oakwood City Council

RESOLUTION

BY MR. BYINGTON

NO 1735

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 2012/13 biennial budget, the OCC's 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 used 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 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 Ohio Consumers' Counsel to effectively advocate on their behalf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD,

SECTION I.

That the Oakwood City Council recognizes 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 II.

That Oakwood 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 impose a more reasonable cut on the Ohio Consumers' Counsel so as to preserve its mission.

SECTION III.

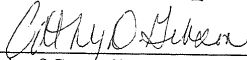
That this resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

PASSED BY COUNCIL this 9th day of May, 2011.

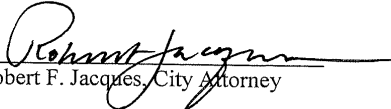


Mayor William D. Duncan

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council



Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney