City of Oregon, Ohio, 5330 Seaman Road, Oregon, OH 43616-2633

RESOLUTION NO. 048 - **2011**

CITY OF OREGON EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL (OCC) 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 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 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 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 OREGON, OHIO THAT:

SECTION 1. Oregon City Council recognizes the vital work of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility consumers.

SECTION 2. That Oregon 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 cut so as to preserve the mission of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

SECTION 3: All formal actions relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of Council, and all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees resulting in formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements of the City of Oregon and the State of Ohio.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in force and take effect as soon as permitted under the law.

Passed this 9th day of May, 2011 . Yeas 7 Nays 0 Abs. 0

President of Council

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council