

VINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

Vinton County Courthouse
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Angela Horn, Clerk

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Michael Bledsoe, President – *Tim Eberts*, Vice President – *Jerry Zinn*, Commissioner

RESOLUTION #05-09-11

WHEREAS, in 1976, The Ohio's 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 complainants 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 Consumer's Counsel has saved customers \$54.8 million directly through its advocacy, and an additional \$1.9 billion in shared savings with other partners and futhermore, during the past 35 years the Ohio Consumer's 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 Consumer's Counsel to effectively advocate on their behalf;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Vinton County Commissioners:

Section 1. That the Vinton County Commissioners recognizes the vital work of the Ohio Consumer's Counsel as a stron consumer advocate and only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility consumers.

Section 2. That the Vinton County Commissioners recognizes that statewide, all department 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 Consumer's Counsel.

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 County, 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.

CERTIFICATION BY CLERK OF COMMISSIONERS

I, Angela Horn, Clerk of Commissioners, do hereby certify that **Resolution #05-09-11** was adopted in our regular Commissioners meeting held on this **9th** day of **May**, 2011, with Commissioner Eberts, Commissioner Zinn, and Commissioner Bledsoe present.

Mr. Tim Eberts made the motion to accept and adopt **Resolution #05-09-11**. Mr. Jerry Zinn 2nd the motion. Roll call shows:

Tim Eberts	Aye
Jerry Zinn	Aye
Michael Bledsoe	Aye

Motion Carried.

Angela Horn

5/09/2011

Angela Horn
Clerk of Commissioners
Vinton County

Date Signed