



# Warren City Council

MUNICIPAL JUSTICE BUILDING • 141 SOUTH STREET, S.E.  
WARREN, OHIO 44483-5796 • (330) 841-2549



May 11, 2011

Ohio Consumers Council  
10 West Broad St.  
Suite 1800  
Columbus, OH 43215-3415

RE: Ohio Consumers' Counsel Budget

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed is a certified copy of Resolution No. 4497/11 passed by a vote of 10/0 by the Council of the City of Warren, Ohio at a meeting held on May 11, 2011.

This resolution is to express Councils' request to urge the Ohio Legislature to preserve the mission of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel by restoring funding to their budget. Any attention you give to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brenda E. Smith  
Deputy Clerk of Council

Enclosure

REQUESTED BY:  
RUCKER , NOVAK , MORN , COLBERT

LAW DEPARTMENT  
DRAFT NO. 3143

TITLE

A RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE  
OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL AND URGING THE  
OHIO LEGISLATURE TO PRESERVE THE MISSION  
OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL BY  
RESTORING FUNDING TO THEIR BUDGET.

RESOLUTION NO. 4497/11

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, such as 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 but under the proposed biennial budget The Ohio Consumers' Counsel's budget would be reduced to \$4.1 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the members of The Ohio Consumers' Counsel's staff, which include 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 advocate 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; 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 behalf of such customers; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Warren, State of Ohio:

Section 1: That this Council hereby recognizes and expresses its support for the vital work of The Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and as the only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility consumers.

Section 2: That this Council, even though it recognizes and acknowledges that, statewide, all State departments must endure some level of cuts to their budgets, hereby urges the Ohio Legislature to make more reasonable cuts to the budget of The Ohio Consumers' Counsel so as to preserve the mission of The Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

Section 4: That this resolution shall take effect at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed in Council this 11TH day of May, 2011.

SIGNED: Neh Rucker ATTEST: Brenda Smith  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - PRO-TEM DEPUTY CLERK

FILED WITH THE MAYOR: 5-11-11

DATE APPROVED: 5-11-11

Michael J. Don  
MAYOR, CITY OF WARREN, OHIO

I, Brenda Smith, Deputy of Council of the City of Warren, County of Trumbull, State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 4497/11 passed in Council this 11TH Day of MAY, 2011 and now on record in the files of my office.  
Brenda Smith  
BRENDA SMITH, Deputy of Council