

**CERTIFICATE
RESOLUTION 2011-530**

I, Jennifer L. Connors, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Fulton County, Ohio, do hereby **CERTIFY** that the attached **Resolution 2011-530**, consisting of one (1) page, is a true and accurate copy of the record of proceedings of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on May 31, 2011 and recorded in the Commissioners' Journal.

Date: 6-7-2011



Jennifer L. Connors, Clerk
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

SEAL

RESOLUTION 2011-530

In the Matter of Resolution Expressing Support for the) Office of County Commissioners
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and Urge the) Fulton County, Ohio
Ohio Legislature to Preserve the Mission of the OCC) May 31, 2011
by Restoring State Funding to Their Budget)

The Board of County Commissioners of Fulton County, Ohio met in regular session pursuant to notice, on May 31, 2011, at 152 South Fulton Street, Wauseon, Ohio, with the following members present:
Commissioners Paul Barnaby, Dean Genter, and Perry Rupp

Commissioner Genter moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in 1976, The Ohio Consumers' Counsel was created by the Ohio General Assembly to represent the interest 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 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; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the vital work of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and as the only statutory entity representing the interest of residential utility consumers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urge the Ohio Legislature to preserve the mission of the Ohio Consumer' Counsel and restore State Funding to their budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of County Commissioners, County of Fulton, State of Ohio concerning the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board of County Commissioners, and that all deliberations of this Board of County Commissioners and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Barnaby seconded the resolution and upon calling the roll, the following vote was taken:

Voting Aye thereon:	Voting Nay thereon:	Abstain:
<u>Paul Barnaby</u>		
Paul Barnaby	Paul Barnaby	Paul Barnaby
<u>Dean Genter</u>		
Dean Genter	Dean Genter	Dean Genter
<u>Perry Rupp</u>		
Perry Rupp	Perry Rupp	Perry Rupp

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO

Attest:
Jennifer L. Connors
Jennifer L. Connors, Clerk