

GALLIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

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Resolution ## 06-14-11

WHEREAS, in 1976, The Ohio's Consumer's Council 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's Consumer's Counsel's budget does not affect the State's general revenue Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Consumer's Council 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's consumer council 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's consumer's council 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 it is resolved by the Gallia County Veterans Service Commission:

Section 1. That the Gallia County Veterans Service Commission recognizes the vital work of the Ohio Consumer's Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and the only statutory entity representing the interests of residential utility customers.

Section 2. That the Gallia County Veterans SERVICE Commission 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 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<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

CERTIFICATION BY NOTARY OF GALLIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

I, John W. Thomas, office manager for the Gallia County Veterans Service Commission, do hereby certify that Resolution # 06-14-11 was adopted at the regular meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011, with commissioners Mc Coy, Moore, Fenderbosch, Mc Carley and Wood present.

Mr. Gary Fenderbosch made the motion to accept and adopt Resolution # 06-14-11. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Roll call follows:

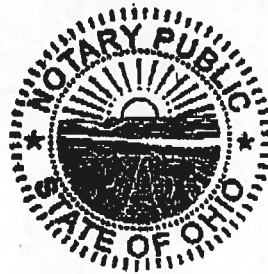
David Mc Coy	Aye	<i>David S. McCoy</i>
Gary Fenderbosch	Aye	<i>Gary Fenderbosch</i>
Robert Mc Carley	Aye	<i>Robert Mc Carley</i>
Robert Wood	Aye	<i>Robert Edwin Wood</i>
Richaer Moore	Aye	<i>Richard Moore</i>

Motion carried.

*John W. Thomas*  
John W. Thomas  
Office Manager  
Gallia Co. VSC

6-14-2011

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Date Signed



JOHN W. THOMAS  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 9/22/2015

*John W. Thomas*