

**CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - 084**

**By: Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE  
OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL AND  
URGING THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO PRESERVE  
AND RESTORE FUNDING TO ITS BUDGET.**

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") 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, namely, 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 advocate on behalf of Ohio's residential households; and

WHEREAS, in the current biennium, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has saved customers some \$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 approximately \$10 billion in avoided utility costs, thus the savings have far exceeded the costs; and

WHEREAS, any budget reduction to the OCC would not be returned to the taxpayers, but would be directed 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 STRONGSVILLE, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO:

CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - 084

**Section 1.** That the Mayor and this Council recognize the vital work of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and as the only statutory entity actually charged with representing the interests of residential utility consumers.

**Section 2.** That the Mayor and this Council, although recognizing that statewide, all departments must endure some level of cuts to their budget, nonetheless are urging the Ohio Legislature to impose a more limited and reasonable reduction so as to preserve the mission and important responsibilities of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

**Section 3.** That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to promptly certify copies of this Resolution to Governor John Kasich, Speaker of the House William G. Batchelder, Senate President Pro Tempore Keith Faber, State Senator Tom Patton, and State Representative Mike Dovilla, and the State's Public Utilities Commission.

**Section 4.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council, and any of its committees, that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

**Section 5.** That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Date Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

|           | <u>Yea</u> | <u>Nay</u> |                  |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------------|
| (vacancy) | _____      | _____      | Attest: _____    |
| Daymut    | _____      | _____      | Clerk of Council |
| DeMio     | _____      | _____      |                  |
| Dooner    | _____      | _____      |                  |
| Haseley   | _____      | _____      |                  |
| Maloney   | _____      | _____      |                  |
| Roth      | _____      | _____      |                  |