

## Testimony to Support the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

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I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify against the cutting of the budget for the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC).

I really never knew what the OCC did until the electric companies decided to eliminate the discount for the all-electric home owners in 2009. I belong to the organization "citizens for keeping the all electric promise" and after not having much luck getting anyone to listen to our concerns the OCC realized the unfairness of this decision by the PUCO and have been fighting for our rights since then.

One example of this was when 50 CKAP members took a bus trip to Columbus, and Janine Migden-Ostrander and her staff met with all the members about our concerns. They helped us understand the issues and answered all of our questions. I feel this shows how customer focused they are.

The cutting of this budget is not right for many reasons. First for the track record they have in saving consumers money over the years, and most importantly this does not save the taxpayers of Ohio any money as they are funded from the utilities themselves.

As I want to keep this short, in closing I want to say that everyone in the OCC that we have worked with have been fighting for all of the all-electric home owners in Ohio. They have been very professional and easy to work with.

Thank you,

Rich Jordan