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Office of Chairman  
P.U.C.O.

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF CANTON  
AN INFORMAL RESOLUTION**

**Submitted by Council Member at Large Mary Cirelli on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August  
2008**

**Re: Resolution Protesting Excessive Fee Increases in the Transportation of Natural  
Gas and Delivery of Electricity**

WHEREAS, Dominion East Ohio serves as the utility which transports and delivers natural gas to the homes, businesses and commercial establishments in Canton, and in many cases also supplies the natural gas; and

WHEREAS, Dominion East Ohio (DEO) has filed a rate increase request with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), and the PUCO has scheduled and is in the process of conducting ten public hearings throughout Ohio on the proposals; and

WHEREAS, DEO is proposing an increase in natural gas bills solely for the delivery portion of the consumer's bill in an amount of at least \$5.20 per month, with more increases to follow; and

WHEREAS, the PUCO has countered with a proposal for lesser increases, and the PUCO and DEO differ as whether to add increases to fixed or use-based charges; and

WHEREAS, the state of Ohio is also in the process of deregulating the prices of electricity; and

WHEREAS, American Electric Power (AEP), services most of the residences, businesses and commercial establishments in Canton and has proposed increasing its rates 45%, at 15% for each of the next 3 years; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Consumers' Counsel Janine Migden-Ostrander, the state's chief residential utility advocate, has been quoted as calling AEP's increase one of the largest in the 31 year history of her office and believes that DEO's proposed increases for the delivery of natural gas are either excessive or unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, the city of Canton has many residents living at or near the poverty line and citizens who are on reduced and fixed incomes, who are also facing increased costs in other commodities and foods; and

WHEREAS, Canton City Council believes that as the elected representatives of city residents, it has an obligation to relay the concerns of hard-pressed residences and businesses of Canton to state officials and corporate representatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Clerk of the Canton City Council is instructed to serve copies of this resolution upon the Public Utilities Commission, American Electric Power, Dominion East Ohio and Consumers' Counsel Janine Migden-Ostrander; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Canton supports the efforts of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel to require and ensure that utility rate increase requests are reasonable, justified and necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this legislative body requests that the PUCO resolve the above-described disparities in favor of the utility users, and negotiate reasonable, incremental increases if it diligently finds that any proposed utility fee increases are necessary, justifiable and verifiable.

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