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E. Patricia Lincoln
10770 Meadow Trail
Strongsville, Ohio 44149.

INVESTIGATION AND AUDIT DIVISION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Alan R. Schriber, Chairman
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Monday, November 1, 2010

Dear Mr. Scriber;

My name is E. Patricia Lincoln and I live in a Bob Schmidt Home here in Strongsville. I have lived in the Meadowood Association since 1987. I attended the meeting last Wednesday, October 27 at Strongsville High School. My story is no different then the hundreds you have already heard, but I want to share it with you.

I am a 78 year old widow. My husband, a minister of the United Church of Christ, died after a very long illness in 2008. I receive a pension as a public school teacher and a widow's pension from the United Church of Christ. One would think I was on a fixed income, in fact while my teachers' pension has remained stable, my widow's pension went down 35% in 2009, and in August of this year it went down an additional 7%. Since I am a public school retiree I come under the G.P.O. (Government Pension Offset) law. Each time I receive a C.O.L.A. increase on my teachers' pension, Social Security deducts 2/3 of the C.O.L.A. increase from my Social Security check, which is presently \$84 a month. In a few years I will receive nothing.

Since my husband was a clergyman, we got into the housing market late in life. I still have a large monthly mortgage. At this point I can make it month to month, but I have had to go into what little savings I had left as I had some unexpected emergencies.

Two problems I can foresee:

1. If the electric rates go up to level they were this past winter. I will not be able to meet my monthly expenses.
2. If the rates go up, I will not be able to sell my house. If I can't pay my expenses or sell the house, I'll have to walk away from it, and I won't be the only person that will have to do that. This will add to the foreclosure fiasco; which in turn will hurt the city of Strongsville.

Your commission has a Solomon like decision to make. Your decision will effect millions of lives and many communities for a long time to come. I pray you make the right one.

Sincerely,

E Patricia Lincoln

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