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Sandra Williams

State Representative, 11th House District

Docket 08-723-AU-ORD

February 21, 2008

Alan R. Schriber
Chair

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Schriber:

On behalf of the citizens of the 11th House District, I am writing to you concerning the upcoming review of Ohio's laws pertaining to Termination of Residential Service (ORC 4901:1-18) and Establishment of credit for residential service (ORC 4901:1-17). The following are concerns and proposed changes my constituency has.

- Decrease consumer's Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) payment percentage from 15% to 7% for individuals 50 and older
- Review the standards used to determine PIPP eligibility
- Require utility companies to inform all individuals about the Medical Certification process
- Require utility companies to give tenants notice if the landlord is behind on payments and provide a notice to tenants indicating that the tenant can deposit money if the landlord is behind in payments.
- Eliminate interest and all up front charges and set compounding interest rate for being on payment plan at 10%
- Review the high deposit amount required for reconnection and penalty deposits. Rejection of HEAP payment from utilities
- Provide optional maintenance program
- Require local payment centers
- Allow customers to receive credit for payments made from an outside source

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PUCO

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- Allow non heating residents to be placed on HEAP

In reviewing these rules, I urge you to consider strongly the abovementioned items. These changes could have a substantial impact upon the quality of life for my constituency and low to moderate citizens throughout Ohio. Utility costs are steadily rising. Unfortunately, many Ohioans have to decide daily between being able to eat or pay skyrocketing utility costs. This is an opportunity to help eliminate the need to make such a decision by implementing the abovementioned changes.

This is a critical decision and it is my hope that the PUCO will promulgate rules that will positively affect Ohioans. Please feel free to contact me at (614) 466-1414 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sandra Williams
State Representative
11th Ohio House District

Cc: Ronda Hartman Fergus, Member, PUCO
Donald L. Mason, Member, PUCO
Valerie A. Lemmie, Member, PUCO
Paul A. Centolella, Member, PUCO
Tim Walters, Community Organizer, May Dugan Center
Janine Midgen-Ostrander, Executive Director, Ohio Consumer's Council