October 14, 2008

Honorable Ted Strickland 0 0 3 9 0CT 17 & Governor's Office Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6108

RE PUCO Case#: 07-1112-WS-AIR

Governor Strickland:

I am writing to ask for your help to <u>please SAVE my neighborhood</u>. I have lived in my beautiful "starter home" for 10 years. I love the neighborhood. We have a low crime rate, large trees, birds, squirrels and we take pride in our properties. I hope you get the chance to visit someday and see what a nice, comfortable, friendly neighborhood we are.

The water rates are outrageous now and Ohio American Water is requesting yet ANOTHER rate increase in addition to the rate increase that was approved just last year!

An uphill battle was waged via petitions and letters to yourself and other politicians to fight the HUGE rate hike that was requested in 2006 and passed in March 2007. There was a stipulation by PUCO that Ohio American Water clean up the water. They did, for the most part. Now, they want us to pay for what they should have been doing anyway!

Please help stop this rate increase of 36.8% on wastewater and a 26.81% increase for water. Huber Ridge water treatment plant customers were exclusively mentioned in the "Stipulation and Recommendation." So this truly is a kick in the teeth for daring to ask for a quality product.

I am a family of TWO and pay \$60 per month now. We pay the HIGHEST WATER RATES IN THE STATE OF OHIO. If this new rate hike is approved I WILL MOVE. No one can afford that kind of increase in this recession.

There are enough vacant houses from foreclosures and this will only create more. My neighbors are disappearing because the water company is greedy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Diana Gibson

Huber Ridge Homeowner