

Editorial: Vote out politicians who won't shake up PUCO

3/13/2022

THE BLADE EDITORIAL BOARD

The shock value can't be summoned anymore regarding the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. They're up to no good, and they're arrogant. PUCO will just keep doing consumers dirty until the people of this state finally say no more.

That will take voting out the politicians who facilitate PUCO.

In the latest twist to their sordid doings the PUCO board voted last week to further stymie investigation of FirstEnergy and the House Bill 6 bribery scandal.

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That decision was not unexpected and follows a familiar pattern. The move makes the case stronger for a complete overhaul of the agency. PUCO reform must be a top issue in election campaigns this year. Any politician who thinks the status quo is acceptable must go.

Here's what PUCO claims as its mission: "Our mission is to assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices."

That all sounds nifty.

In carrying out that mission, PUCO repeatedly kills every route of inquiry into one of the biggest political scandals in Ohio for decades. And by the way, the biggest rip off of consumers imaginable. Wait a minute, that doesn't sound in accord with the mission. No, it's not.

This time the agency nixed a subpoena for the deposition of an auditor who likely has information on the House Bill 6 scandal. A deposition mandates testimony under oath. The question of the deposition has bounced back and forth for a while. The vote was a decision by the full PUCO board.

The Ohio's Office of Consumers' Counsel wanted the testimony to learn more about the H.B. 6 scandal. The office wanted to depose Oxford Advisers. Oxford worked on a report into surcharges by FirstEnergy. It's long past time for reform of the commission. PUCO must be brought into line with the mission statement it avows.

The first step toward those changes would be the election of the PUCO board.

PUCO
2022 MAR 21
PM 3:04



Public Utilities Commission

00742544

Case Number

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attn: Docketing
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Formal Complaint Form

CASE # 22-0145-GA-CSS

Kelsey Johnson

Customer Name (Please Print)

514 North Street

Customer Address

Toledo

City

Ohio 43620

State Zip

Against

206360590010006

Account Number

Customer Service Address (if different from above)

Columbia Gas of Ohio

Utility Company Name

Columbus

City

Ohio 43216-6581

State Zip

Please describe your complaint. (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Columbia Gas of Ohio is overbilling me by 3-fold at \$205.05 and the final bill at \$127.34. My average monthly bill is [seriously] less than those number of \$6.00 and some change per day.

Kelsey Johnson

Signature

419-350-2408

Customer Telephone Number

MV22-000692

CVH-21-16294

FILED
TOLEDO MUNICIPAL COURT

2022 MAR -9 P 2:18

CLERK
IN THE TOLEDO MUNICIPAL COURT
LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO
CIVIL DIVISION

LYNETTE TAYLOR

* CASE NO. CVH-21-16294

and

*

BEACON PLACE TENANT COUNCIL

*

JUDGE HOWE

Plaintiffs,

*

Plaintiffs' Motion for a
Continuance

v.

*

BEACON PLACE USA, LLC

*

and

*

ANDERSON BIRKLA MANAGEMENT, INC.
DBA DENIZEN MANAGEMENT

*

*

Defendants.

*

Now come the Plaintiffs, Lynette Taylor and Beacon Place Tenant Council, by and through undersigned counsel, and respectfully request this Honorable Court to continue this pretrial hearing and trial in this matter. The previous continuance, granted by this honorable court, conflicts with other obligations for undersigned counsel. Both Plaintiffs and Defendants are amenable to a later date. Plaintiffs respectfully requests that the pretrial hearing be continued to April 11, 2022 still at 9am, which Defendants have stated would also be an acceptable date and time.

From:

03/09/2022 15:12

#907 P.003/003

Respectfully submitted,

David Manor

Reem Subei 92650

David Manor 100068

Matthew Currie 0078656

Counsel for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was served on this 9th day of March 2022 via electronic mail upon Michael Jameson <mjameson@willislawohio.com>.

David Manor



**Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.**

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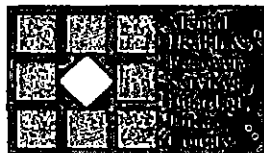
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March 9, 2022

Toledo Municipal Clerk of Courts
555 North Erie Street
Toledo Ohio 43604

ATTN: CASE NO. CVH-21-16294

RE: Request for Continuance

Dear Clerk:

Please accept this facsimile filing sent to 419-936-7012.

Packet includes a Request for Continuance

Transmitting Facsimile Number: (419) 259-2880

Number of Pages Included in Facsimile Including Cover Page: 3

Sincerely:

/s/David Manor
David Manor (100068)
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
525 Jefferson Ave., Suite 300
Toledo, Ohio 43604
DIRECT: 419-930-2340
(419) 259-2880 Facsimile
dmanor@ablelaw.org



Public Utilities Commission

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jennifer French, Chair

Commissioners

M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis P. Deters
Daniel R. Conway

February 25, 2022

Kelsey Johnson
514 North Street
Toledo, OH 43620

RE: Case No. 22-0145-GA-CSS

Dear Kelsey Johnson:

This letter will confirm that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has received your formal complaint against Columbia Gas of Ohio. Your formal complaint has been assigned the above case number. We have sent a copy of your complaint to the utility company. The utility company has been given 20 days to file its answer in response to your complaint and will send a copy of that answer to you as well.

The Commission will issue an entry that explains the next step in your case. A copy of the entry will be sent to you.

Enclosed is a brochure to assist you in understanding the process associated with formal Complaints filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Sincerely,



Tanbwa Troupe, Secretary
Debbie Ryan, Acting Secretary
Donielle M. Hunter, Acting Secretary
Susan Patterson, Acting Secretary

DH/dlh