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TO WHOMSOEVER IT CONCERNS
CASE # 03-2390-WS-AIR PUCO

I AM MARY BARDINGER, A CITIZEN OF MARION, OHIO, I AM WRITING CONCERNING, TO THE PUCO, IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT THE RISING COST OF THE UTILITIES IN OUR TOWN. THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE CONCERN IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED MATTER - CASE # 03-2390-WS-AIR: PEOPLE HAVE MET WITH THE UTILITIES CO., + WITH THE PUCO. AGENTS/OFFICIALS, BUT EVIDENTLY TO NO AVAIL, BECAUSE OUR UTILITY BILLS ARE SO HIGH NOW. IT SEEMS TO THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN, THAT MY HUSBAND + I KNOW OUR FRIENDS + RELATIVES, + TO THE PEOPLE THAT THEY KNOW, THAT SOMEONE HAS GONE TO SLEEP AT THE WHEEL. NO-ONE IS LISTENING TO THE CRYING OF THE POOR!

MY HUSBAND WORKS AT WHIRLPOOL, + HE KNOWS LITERALLY "THOUSANDS" OF PEOPLE THERE, + THEY AGREE WITH HIM IN HIS THINKING. ALSO, HE IS A FOOTBALL COACH FOR THE CITY SCHOOLS OF MARION, + I ~~CANNOT~~ ^{CANNOT} TELL YOU THE COUNTLESS CITIZENS THAT HE KNOWS FROM THERE, I DO NOT KNOW EVERYONE HE KNOWS, BUT I KNOW QUITE A FEW, AND I CANNOT THINK OF ONE PERSON THAT WE KNOW, THAT DISAGREES WITH US ON THE UTILITY ISSUE. WE HAVE BEEN SO UPSET FOR YEARS

BECAUSE OUR CITY IS, AS WE ARE TOLD THE STATISTICS ARE, 3rd IN THE STATE OF OHIO, AND MARION IS 17th IN THE NATION IN HIGH UTILITIES. AND WE ARE NOT MAKING THE KIND OF MONEY THAT PEOPLES IN BIG CITIES MAKE.

MY HUSBAND + I JUST HAD TO FILE BANKRUPTCY BECAUSE IN THE LAST 4 YEARS, HE HAS WORKED LESS THAN 2 YEARS. HE HAS BEEN ON MEDICAL, + MAKES ABOUT $\frac{1}{3}$ OF HIS REGULAR SALARY. WE HAVE LOST EVERYTHING - ANOTHER RENTAL HOME + A LATE MODEL CAR. NOW WE JUST HAVE OUR HOUSE PAYMENT, GROCERIES, GAS FOR OUR OLD TRUCK + UTILITIES FOR EXPENSES. AND GUESS WHAT? - OUR UTILITIES ARE, AFTER OUR HOUSE PAYMENT - OUR BIGGEST EXPENSE. IS'NT THAT SAD? + GUESS WHAT, WE CAN'T AFFORD THEM.

THE WATER CO. IN OUR TOWN, AND THE SEWAGE ARE LINKED TOGETHER. WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHER TOWNS, BUT IN MARION, IF YOUR WATER BILL IS \$50.⁰⁰, THEN YOUR SEWAGE IS \$50.⁰⁰, + PLUS, YOU ARE TAXED ACCORDINGLY, ON TOP OF THAT.

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AND THE UTILITY COMPANIES KEEP INSISTING THAT, "THEY NEED A RAISE." RIGHT NOW, ITS THE WATER COMPANY. YOU KNOW MY HONEST THINKING ABOUT THAT? THEY SHOULD BE TRIED IN A HIGH COURT AS TRAITORS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

HERE IS MY TAKE ON UTILITIES COS. THEY SELL US (AMERICANS) OUR WATER, OUR GAS (NATURAL) USE OUR WATER TO MAKE ELECTRICITY + SELL TO US. THEY MANUFACTURE NO PRODUCT, (EXCEPT ELECTRICITY) THEY MAKE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR OFF OF US! THE OWNERS OF THE WATER, + GAS. THEN, THEY GIVE ALL THEIR EXECUTIVES HIGH RAISES FOR NOTHING, EXCEPT RIPPING OFF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WHY ARENT WE GETTING PAID FOR ALLOWING THEM TO SELL US OUR OWN WATER + GAS.

YOU PROBABLY ARE LAUGHING, + THINKING "SHE PROBABLY DOESNT KNOW MUCH - LOOK HOW SHE WRITES". I HAVE ARTHRITIS. IT IS PAINFULL TO WRITE OR PRINT.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU DONT LISTEN "TO THE CRYING OF THE POOR", + DONT TELL THE UTILITY CO (WATER) NO!

TO THE RAISE THEY ARE SUGGESTING "NOT EVEN A SMALL ONE - NO RAISE AT ALL," YOUR OWN JOBS ARENT GOING TO BE SECURE. IF YOU DONT CARE ABOUT US, + DONT PROTECT US, + PLEAD OUR CASE, THEN YOU WILL BE IN THE SAME BOAT. YOU COULD BE STANDING IN A WELFARE/FOOD STAMP LINE, WITH NO-ONE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.

IT IS YOUR FAULT, ALONG WITH THE COMMISSIONERS, THAT THE UTILITIES ARE IN THE SHAPE THAT THEY ARE. - WHICH IS SO HIGH - UNLESS YOU ARE FINANCIALLY SECURE, THAT WE/THEY CANT AFFORD TO PAY THEM.

AND SHAME ON YOU - YOU KNEW EVER SINCE THE 70'S WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON PUT A FREEZE ON EVERYTHING IN THIS COUNTRY - FROZE - NO RAISES - NO HIKEs - NO-ONE! WHO WAS THE FIRST ONEs TO CRY - "WE NEED A RAISE" + GOT IT. THE NO PRODUCT PRODUCING UTILITIES.

WAKE UP - "THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES ON." CANT YOU SEE? - ARE YOU BLIND?

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AND I KNOW YOU ARE INTELLIGENT PEOPLE, OR YOU WOULDN'T HOLD THE POSITIONS YOU HOLD.

WAKE UP - STAND UP, GET UP, + DONT LET THE CITIZENS OF MARION DOWN. SAY "NO RAISES" NOT ONE PENNY.

AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED FOR IT - NOT CURSED.

TAKE THE STRANGLE HOLD OFF THE THROATS OF THIS PART OF THE USA CITIZENS.

THERE ARE SO MANY REALLY POOR PEOPLE IN MARION - THEY HAVE 3+ H CHILDREN + WORK 2 JOBS IN EITHER MCDONALDS, OR WENDY'S, OR TACO BELL, + THEY ARE REALLY TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR FAMILIES - DONT PENALIZE THEM - HELP THEM - DO NOT LET THE WATER CO. - NOW, + THE OTHER UTILITIES WHEN THEY COME TO YOU + WANT A RAISE LATER ON. SAY NO. - DONT GIVE THEM YOUR EAR!

OUR COUNTRY IS A GREAT ONE - LOTS OF GOOD PEOPLE - WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, WHICH ARE YOU? CONCERNED CITIZENS ABOUT

PEOPLE - OR ARE YOU OUT FOR ALL
THE BIG COMPANIES (-+ UTILITIES ARE
BIG BUSINESSES.)

LET'S HELP THE POOR PEOPLE.

LET'S GIVE THEM A BREAK. THE EXEC-
UTIVES AT ANY GIVEN UTILITY CO. +
THEIR EMPLOYEES DO NOT NEED A
RAISE. THEY ALREADY MAKE TWICE
AS MUCH AS THE AVERAGE CITIZEN.

I USED TO KNOW THE DIRECTOR
ACTUALLY A MANAGER, OF THE MARION
WATER CO.

LET'S GIVE THE PEOPLE A
BREAK. THANKS IN ADVANCE

SINCERELY

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