

# OHIO APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

October 21, 1998

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PUCO

Public Utilities Division of Docketing  
180 E. Broad Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Oh 43215

RE: 98-942-GE-ORD

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express the support of the Ohio Apartment Association for the inclusion of the proposed new subdivision (G) to O.A.C. 4901:1-18-05 which reads:

Upon the request of a property owner or agent thereof, each gas or natural gas company shall provide the property owner or agent thereof with a three-day notice when service is to be disconnected to a customer who is a tenant either at the customer's request or for nonpayment.

The Ohio Apartment Association represents the owners and managers of over 500,000 apartments throughout Ohio.

The rule would correct a current problem that unfairly penalizes a property owner. Currently if a tenant does not pay for his/her utility service or requests disconnection without the knowledge of the owner, service can be terminated without a notice to the property owner. Disconnection of service during winter months can cause pipes to freeze and break costing the owner significantly and making a unit of affordable housing unavailable.

The rule merely extends to the owner the same type of notice provided a tenant, if an owner does not pay the utility bills.

The notice provision does not pose an undo burden on the utility company and will allow the company to avoid the cost of service disconnection in many instances.

This rule is fair, logical, and extends a needed service to customers without placing a burden on the utility company. We urge your adoption of this rule.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Gladman  
Government Affairs Coordinator

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Technician SW Date Processed 10-26-98

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Apartment Association

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Property Owners Association

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Northern Kentucky  
Apartment Association

Columbus  
Apartment Association

Greater Dayton  
Apartment Association

Findlay Area  
Apartment Association

Licking County  
Apartment Association

Mid-Ohio  
Apartment Association

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Apartment Owners Association

Northern Ohio  
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Apartment Association

Toledo Home Builders  
Apartment Council

