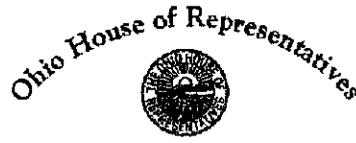


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09-391-WS-AIR

2009 NOV 17 AM 8:44

November 4, 2009

Alan Schriber, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Schriber,

Our offices have received a number of calls concerning the decision by Ohio American Water (OAW) to submit a request to the PUCO that, if approved, would enable in areas across Ohio a 60 percent rate hike over four years.

The pending rate case for OAW is its third request for a rate increase in four years. If granted, the rate increase will impact 57,703 Ohioans, across OAW's six districts: Ashtabula, Franklin County, Lawrence County, Mansfield, Marion, Portage County and Tiffin in Seneca County. And the impact would be significant. For example, in Madison Township, this rate hike would raise the average water bill from \$102.64 in 2009 to \$158.47 in 2013. In Ashtabula an average residential customer will see a monthly bill rise \$26.15 over the next four years.

Ohioans across the state have been feeling the pinch of the national recession. Many people have lost their own jobs or know someone who has. Families are making tough decisions to cut back on spending and streamline household budgets. A 60 percent increase on Ohioans' water bills is an unacceptable aggravation of the strains of a tough national economy.

Our constituents have communicated to us their many and varied concerns about the effects of this rate hike: from the extra strain on their family budgets, to even losing their homes due to a possible inability to meet other monthly bills, such as mortgage payments.

We intend to introduce legislation designed to limit the impact of a water or sewage company's request to establish or change rates. But this matter also requires your attention. We understand that the Commission will give OAW's request full and fair consideration. In that process we are asking you to take our concerns into consideration as we work together to seek a fair solution.

Please contact us any time to discuss this matter further. You can reach Rep. Dyer's office (614) 466-1790; Rep. Goyal's office (614) 466-5802; Rep. Harris' office (614) 466-4847; and Rep. Newcomb's office (614) 466-1405.

Sincerely,

State Representative Marian Harris
Ohio House District 19

State Representative Stephen Dyer
Ohio House District 43

State Representative Jay Goyal
Ohio House District 73

State Representative Deborah Newcomb
Ohio House District 99

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