

# *Resolution*

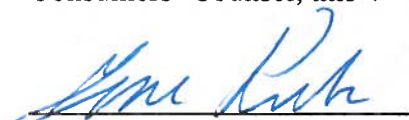
## *Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel*

### **In Support of Basic Local Telephone Service for Ohio Consumers**

- WHEREAS,** Ohioans are dependent upon electricity, natural gas, telephone and water services; and
- WHEREAS,** It is the policy of the state of Ohio to ensure the availability of adequate basic local exchange service to citizens throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS,** Basic local telephone service is an essential service to thousands of consumers, especially elderly and rural consumers; and
- WHEREAS,** Ohio law requires incumbent local telephone companies to provide basic local telephone service, on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis, to all persons in their service areas who request basic local telephone service; and
- WHEREAS,** Ohio law provides pricing and service quality protections for basic local telephone service; and
- WHEREAS,** The pending state budget bill (Am. Sub. H.B. 59) may be amended with language that, among other things, could allow incumbent local telephone companies, in as soon as two years and at their option, to transfer customers from regulated basic local telephone service to an unregulated "voice service" that would not have pricing and service quality protections.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel supports maintaining the most basic telephone service with price and quality protections for consumers and further recommends that, if this subject is to be considered, the subject should be considered in a stand-alone bill separate from the budget bill.

I verify that this Resolution has been approved by the Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2013.



Gene Krebs, Chairman

Governing Board of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel