



State Representative Jay P. Goyal

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Contact: Dominic Paretti, Legislative Aide (614) 466-5802

Rep. Goyal Announces Bill to Limit Water Rate Increases

Legislation designed to limit rate case expenses consumers incur

COLUMBUS- State Representative Jay P. Goyal (D-Mansfield) today introduced legislation that would limit the burden on consumers who incur the costs of rate-case expenses for waterworks and sewage disposal companies. Rep. Goyal jointly sponsored House Bill 344 with Rep. Marian Harris (D- Columbus).

“During these tough economic times Ohioans have been making a lot of tough choices, but choosing between paying for clean drinking water or putting food on the table should not be one of them,” Rep Goyal said. “This legislation is about protecting Ohioans’ consumer needs without sacrificing basic services.”

Waterworks and sewage disposal rate increases have become annual events in some cases, and have resulted in up to an 80% increase of a consumer’s regular water and sewage bill. One company has filed 8 times since 1992 to increase rates: most recently requesting an increase in 2009. These increases typically affect anywhere from 36,000 to 60,000 customers per increase. Additionally, a recent request was made by a utility company for rate increases in residential water and sewer bills for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

HB 344 will now be referred to committee by the House Rules and Reference committee.