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**May 13, 2008**

**Council opposes ‘unjust’ water rate increases for Richfield residents**

The members of Summit County Council unanimously approved a resolution May 12, 2008 that opposes potential water and sewer rate increases that are unlike any other in the state.

The 83 customers served by Water & Sewer LLC are currently paying what equates to around \$1,400 per year, while their proposed rate increases would raise that to around \$2,940 per year.

“These proposed increases are unjust and unwarranted,” said Summit County Council President Nick Kostandaras. “Water is a basic need of life and it needs to be affordable to all residents. The proposed rates are not only unaffordable, they are overwhelmingly unreasonable.”

Based on 2006 information from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Cleveland residents by comparison paid around \$191 per year, while Akron residents paid \$302 on average.

In recent years, a sample of four of Ohio’s 22 other private water companies showed their water rate prices ranged from around \$250 to \$350 per year for residential customers.

“It was important for Council to show residents that it will not sit idly by while a private company attempts to run roughshod over them,” Kostandaras said.

As District 1 Council Member, Nick Kostandaras represents the Cities of Macedonia and Twinsburg, Boston Heights, Northfield, Peninsula, Reminderville and Richfield Villages, Bath, Boston, Northfield Center, Richfield, Sagamore Hills and Twinsburg Townships and part of the City of Akron.

For more information, please contact the Summit County Council Office at (330) 643-2725.

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