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Plain Dealer
Cleveland, Ohio

To the editor,

Selling or leasing a public utility is not only bad economics but bad democracy. Akron residents should vote No on Issue 8, in opposition to the PD endorsement, and Yes on Issue 9, which the PD failed to consider.

The report card of selling or leasing public utilities to private corporations, many foreign, has been a failure. Food and Water Watch, a national group tracking privatization/corporation, has issued a report showing skyrocketing rates, sewage flooded basements, federal investigations, broken pipes, bad water quality, loss of public jobs, corruption, and scandal – and these were for communities the Mayor pointed out as “successes.” For their report, www.AkronOhio.net

Second, the entity providing financial guidance to the Issue 8 sewer plan is none other than Morgan Stanley – the same banking outfit that was part of the Wall St. meltdown that our tax dollars are now paying for.

Finally, the educational “scholarship” part of the plan must be paid back if the recipient doesn’t live or work in Akron for 30 years. So much for indentured servitude being a thing of the past. There is a better way to fund education than this.

Citizens have the opportunity to vote against Issue 8 (compared to it being enacted by City Council) because of a grassroots citizen initiative, Issue 9, stating that any plan to privatize any public utility must first be approved by voters.

Issue 9 deserves public support. Issue 8 deserves to be flushed.

Greg Coleridge

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