

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hamilton County Residents File Suit Against HSE Over SAMCO Affiliate**

*Complaint Alleges Rate Payers are Being Overcharged by Hamilton Southeastern Utilities, Inc.*

**Indianapolis, February 8, 2011:** A group of Hamilton County residents and the Indiana Laborers District Council filed a complaint with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) this week challenging a course of conduct by Hamilton Southeastern Utilities, Inc. (HSE) affiliate SAMCO aimed at obstructing efforts of its employees to organize and engage in collective bargaining, and thereby impacting HSE's services and rates.

The complaint alleges that the consequences of SAMCO's conduct have adversely impacted the quality and reliability of HSE services to its customers. Additionally, the complaint alleges that due to SAMCO's actions the regulated rates for HSE reflect a level of compensation for SAMCO that is no longer commensurate with the value of the services being provided.

As such, the residents seek an investigation and hearing by the IURC to determine if HSE has engaged in unreasonable business practices in violation of Indiana law. The residents further seek a determination by the IURC that the contract between HSE and SAMCO is not in the public interest in the manner in which it is currently administered and should be disapproved.

David Frye, Field Representative for Indiana Laborers District Council, said of the complaint, *"We vigorously support the efforts of Hamilton County residents to obtain fair and decent rates for their utility services. The relationship between SAMCO and HSE and any shared ownership relationships should be fully investigated by the IURC."* Frye also commented on SAMCO's anti-union posture, *"The National Labor Relations Board protects the rights of workers who wish to organize a union. We will fight tirelessly to defend the SAMCO workers and their right to collectively bargain with SAMCO."*

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Four of the officers of HSE are also shareholders in SAMCO. SAMCO is contracted by HSE to provide management, engineering, system design, construction, repair, maintenance, cleaning, inspection and emergency services with respect to HSE's sewer utility facilities.

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