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PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Date: 4, 30, 2017

Dear Ohio Public Utility Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a concerned citizen and fan of the German Village Historic District, a nationally recognized historic district in Columbus. We do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed on exterior facades in the district. It is a violation of the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation, standards established for the preservation and maintenance of properties and districts, such as German Village, listed or deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Maintaining historic integrity is central to maintaining the cultural and economic value of the district. In German Village, these standards have been applied meticulously for over 58 years. Every single property owner in the district knows that there is a direct benefit to adhering to these standards: steadily increasing property values. This also means steadily increasing tax revenue for the city of Columbus and state of Ohio.

The maintenance of these standards is the very basis of German Village attaining national recognition as an outstanding neighborhood and as a popular tourist destination. The cumulative adverse effect of 1500+/- meters appearing on primary facades poses a threat to the very essence of German Village.

Columbia Gas, as a public service provider, is immune to design review requirements. To date, they continue to relocate interior meters to an exterior facade, the majority of relocations thus far being in violation of the very same standards EVERY PROPERTY OWNER MUST adhere to or face code violation proceedings.

Additionally, I am aware that there is a gap in safety data answering one simple question: Are meters safer on the inside or the outside of homes in dense, urban neighborhoods such as German Village? I demand to know the answer through an independent study of the available Federal incident data from 2010 to 2017, compiled by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. It has been confirmed by five different sources, including the PUCO, Columbia Gas of Ohio and the Pipeline Safety Trust, that no such study has ever been undertaken.

* FYI - My house has been hit by trucks three times since I have lived in German Village!

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I appreciate the work and attention that has made German Village what it is today. The meters should remain indoors, and those that have already been relocated as part of Columbia Gas of Ohio's AMRP program in German Village, should be put back indoors.

Please put a stop to this relocation of meters before any additional harm is done to the valuable properties of German Village. *& maybe avoid harm to a resident of German Village that a meter (if struck) could cause.*

Regards,

Signature Charles St. Clair

Printed Name Charles St. Clair

City of Residence Columbus, Ohio

CC: The German Village Society

I'm also having a difficult time understanding why ^{having} meters within homes for over 150 years was fine until now & why our utilities can be held to lower standards than residents within historical areas