



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

July 10, 2017

Commission Chair Asim Haque
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St
Columbus Ohio 43215

RE: Docket No. 17-1298-GA-CSS

Dear Chairperson Haque:

We join the German Village Society in requesting the retention of gas meters and regulators indoors, or in cases where the interior location cannot meet federal safety requirements, on the rear facade of all buildings located in both locally and nationally designated historic districts, in compliance with standard preservation principles as described by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places.

The Columbia Gas of Ohio pipeline replacement program's plans to relocate interior gas meters onto homes' exteriors can be done in such a way that respects and protects the rich, built heritage in the communities it touches. The National Trust believes that the exterior placement of gas meters could have an adverse effect on the historic character of historic districts across the city of Columbus and the State of Ohio.

This issue has the potential to impact many hundreds of historic properties in Columbus and across the State of Ohio. We believe a compromise can be reached that would allow for safe placement of gas meters while also respecting the historic character that makes German Village and other neighborhoods in Ohio so unique and attractive to homeowners and tourists. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Lu Seidel".

Mary Lu Seidel

Director, Chicago Field Office

Cc: Honorable Governor John Kasich
State Representative Kristin Boggs
State Senator Charletta Tavares
City of Columbus Councilmembers Zach Klein, Priscilla Tyson, Mitchell Brown,
Elizabeth Brown, Shannon Hardin, Jaiza Page, and Michael Stinziano
Joyce Barrett, Heritage Ohio
Amanda Terrell, Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
Ed Lentz, Columbus Landmarks Foundation

Chicago Field Office

53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350 Chicago, IL 60604

E info@savingplaces.org P 312.939.5547 www.PreservationNation.org

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Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing