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Michael J. Skindell
State Representative

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PUCO

June 20, 2019

Chairman Sam Randazzo
Commissioner M. Beth Trombold
Commissioner Lawrence K. Friedman
Commissioner Dennis P. Deters
Commissioner Daniel R. Conway

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Petition of Communications Workers of America for a Public, On-the-Record Commission
Investigation of the Adequacy and Reliability of Service Provided by AT&T Services, Inc.

CASE NO.: 19-1314-TP-CSS

Chairman Randazzo & Commissioners:

I am writing in strong support of the request of the Communication Workers of America "CWA" that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio "PUCO" hold public hearings and "conduct a comprehensive, statewide investigation into the safety, adequacy and reliability of AT&T's service and facilities." Moreover, any PUCO investigation, as requested by CWA, should include an injunction barring AT&T and its affiliates from coercing, discriminating against, intimidating, or taking adverse employment actions of any character against any employee who participates in such investigation.

As you are aware, Ohio Revised Code Sec. 4927.02(A)(1) provides that "It is the policy of this state to: Ensure the adequacy and reliability of basic local exchange service . . . and the adequacy and reliability of voice service throughout the state." R.C. 4927. *et seq.* empowers the PUCO to conduct an investigation as requested by CWA.

The complaint requesting an investigation filed by CWA contains detailed allegations of gross neglect by AT&T of its facilities within the state of Ohio. These detailed and alarming allegations include poles falling over, extreme disrepair of damaged cables, unsecured cables and terminals, severely damaged splice boxes, and insect infestation of broken wiring cabinets.

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The allegations outlined in the complaint filed by CWA, if proven, would clearly demonstrate that AT&T has been maintaining its service and facilities in an unsafe, inadequate and unreliable condition. It is in the public interest that the PUCO open an investigation and conduct public hearings with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Skindell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Michael J. Skindell
State Representative – 13th District