

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

May XX, 2017

Dear Ohio Public Utilities Commissioners,

I'm writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a stakeholder of the German Village Historic District in Columbus. We do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed outside of our properties in German Village. It is a blight to our preserved district, and undermines more than five decades of consistent, focused effort to revitalize the historic elements of this community. Over the years, I have invested \$_____ in my home and property. Each and every time I revised the exterior of my home, I was required to have my plans approved by the German Village Commission. Columbia Gas should be willing or be required to work within the same rules in this fragile, special historic district as other stakeholders do in order to preserve its historic character.

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 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. The data indicates significant safety risk with outside meters.

I am a caretaker of the German Village legacy. I want Columbia to be a cooperative partner in the maintenance and the caretaking this special place, which is a tourist destination for many and thus economically beneficial to Columbus and Franklin County. The meters should remain indoors.

The proposed disfigurement of hundreds of primary facades in one of the pre-eminent historic districts in the country is an insult to individual property owners and our personal investment, often one made with the knowledge that the cost to maintain the visual integrity of each exterior in the Village would be protected through review. It is an insult to all of us who have battled so very hard time and again to fend off anything that poses an adverse effect to the essence of the legacy we are charged with protecting. It is an insult to those who came before us and painstakingly and with great sacrifice wove the American cultural fabric - and it is ultimately an insult of deepest proportion to those set to experience this place in the future. With all due respect, please stop the outside relocation of natural gas meters in German Village to protect its citizens and its historic, visual integrity.

Regards,

Cc: The German Village Society