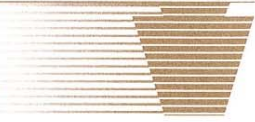


Pennsylvania Telephone Association

*"The Communications
Leader in Pennsylvania"*



HOUSE CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PENNSYLVANIA UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE PROTECTION LAW

JUNE 5, 2017

TESTIMONY OF

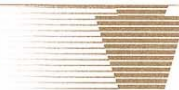
STEVEN J. SAMARA

PRESIDENT

PENNSYLVANIA TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

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Good Morning Chairman Godshall, Chairman Caltagirone, and members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

My name is Steve Samara, and I am president of the Pennsylvania Telephone Association (PTA), an organization which represents the interests of rural local phone companies throughout the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Underground Utility Line Protection Law legislation currently pending before this committee.

PTA member Companies take the responsibilities of identifying and safely working on their infrastructure very seriously.

We have enjoyed a long and successful relationship with PA One Call and I'm confident that relationship will continue under the legislation we are addressing today.

A testament to the partnership that PTA Member Companies have with PA One Call is evident in the fact that we have historically had company representation on the One Call Board and on the various committees (including the Legislative Task Force) for many years.

PA One Call is also an Associate Member of the PTA, and is a regular exhibitor at our annual trade show which is held every fall.

Within the Association, we have an Outside Plant subcommittee which is charged with, among other things, addressing issues related to infrastructure; whether that be copper/fiber lines, poles, remote terminals etc. I would encourage any committee member who has questions regarding telecommunications infrastructure to contact me and I can solicit a response from the subcommittee.

With regard to House Bill 284 and its predecessors, the PTA has worked with Representative Matt Baker, PUC Commissioner John Coleman, and other interested parties to ensure that telco customers, employees, and the general public are protected.

Of particular importance to the PTA members was telco representation on the Damage Prevention Committee created by the legislation and, in various provisions, a recognition that safely restoring service is of primary importance.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders on this legislation, and am happy to answer any questions which you may have.