



PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

January 12, 2016

Honorable Robert W. Godshall  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
150 Main Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 202053  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2053

Honorable Peter J. Daley  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
202 Irvis Office Building  
P.O. Box 202049  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2049

Dear Chairman Godshall and Chairman Daley:

I urge you to support enhanced PA One Call legislation, HB 445, which would transfer authority of the PA One Call Law from the Department of Labor and Industry to the Public Utility Commission, and, furthermore, urge amendment of the bill to remove the exemption relating to *crude oil or natural gas production and gathering lines or facilities associated with a conventional oil and gas well*. If enacted, this legislation will enhance public safety and confidence in energy development.

This exemption has had grave and tragic consequences. A construction worker in Armstrong County recently died from burns he received after the excavator he was operating struck an unmarked natural gas pipe triggering an explosion. It is deeply concerning that though a PA One Call was initiated, and at-risk pipes were marked, the worker was unaware of a high pressure natural gas pipe in his path which was unmarked because it fell under an exemption in the current statute. This devastating explosion, as well as future incidents across the state, was, and are, entirely preventable.

My experience as a farmer and my work in the natural gas industry gives me a deep perspective on the likely implications if this exemption is permitted to remain.

Speaking from my industry experience, there is no substantive reason for such an exemption to PA One Call. A gas line operator must know where its pipes lie and must place safety above all other concerns. As a farmer, I am acutely aware of the potential dangers of underground pipe and the dependence workers in the field have in knowing where dangers lie. A PA One Call system, without the aforementioned exemption, provides that assurance and margin of safety.

Pipelines and associated infrastructure are fundamental to economic strength across Pennsylvania and serve as drivers of development for many communities. I fear that failure to assure safety in the field, by continuing this exemption, will needlessly impede this growing demand for energy in Pennsylvania. Additionally, as you know, continued exemptions to PA One Call will lead to the loss of Federal funding for the Commonwealth's pipeline safety inspections.

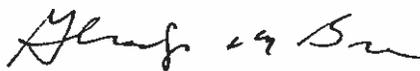
I and my fellow Commissioners urge you to support Pa One Call legislation, HB 445, as well as the inclusion of an amendment to remove the exemption relating to *crude oil or natural gas production and gathering lines or facilities associated with a conventional oil and gas well*.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions on this or any other matter at (717) 783-1197.

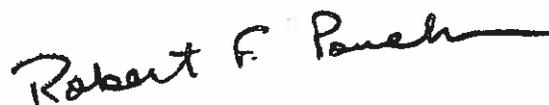
Sincerely,



Andrew G. Place  
Vice Chairman



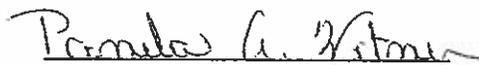
Gladys M. Brown  
Chairman



Robert F. Powelson  
Commissioner



John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Commissioner



Pamela A. Witmer  
Commissioner

Cc: Honorable Matthew E. Baker  
Members of Committee on Consumer Affairs  
Honorable Mike Turzai, Speaker of the House  
Honorable Dave Reed, House Majority Leader  
Honorable Frank Dermody, House Democratic Leader  
Honorable Joseph B. Scarnatti III, President Pro Tempore  
Honorable Jacob Corman, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jay Costa, Senate Democratic Leader  
Honorable Robert M. Tomlinson, Chairman, Consumer Protection &  
Professional Licensure Committee  
Honorable Lisa M. Boscola, Democratic Chairman, Consumer Protection &  
Professional Licensure Committee