

Prepared Testimony of
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Commissioner Nominee
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

before the

Pennsylvania Senate
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

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Good afternoon, Chairman Tomlinson, Chairman Boscola,
Members of the Committee:

I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to appear before you today regarding my nomination to serve as a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commissioner. I thank Governor Wolf for nominating me for this role and I would like to recognize the Commissioners in the room.

I have worked on public projects and public policy matters during my decades-long career in Harrisburg. And likely through my work advocating legislation and representing clients on administrative and regulatory matters have had the privilege of working with many of you.

But I am here today to share more information about my qualifications to serve as a PUC Commissioner.

First and most obvious, I am a utility customer, just like all of you before me. I understand the profound impact that the Commission's work has on the lives of Pennsylvania consumers every day – and this is something I take very seriously.

I hail from Washington County, but my education and work experience have spanned across the Commonwealth. I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania (took a quick detour to Illinois to get a master's degree from the University of Chicago), and graduated from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

In the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I represented Washington County from 1977 to 1988. I served as Chairman of the House Local Government Committee for the 1987-88 legislative session and helped enact major legislation on local tax reform, distressed municipalities and land use and zoning regulations.

While in the private practice of law, I chaired Governor Bob Casey's Commission on Corrections Planning and the Pennsylvania

Chamber of Business and Industry's State Government Committee. I received the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's "Friend of County Government Commendation," which is the highest award given to a non-member of the association, as well as awards from the Pennsylvania League of Cities, the Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Economic Development Association and the Southwestern Pennsylvania regional Planning Commission.

I served as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel and special counsel in public and project finance – to the tune of more than \$3 billion of financings. These projects were located in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as well as many counties throughout the Commonwealth and neighboring states.

As a bond counsel or special counsel, I represented the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority, the Commonwealth Finance Authority and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. As underwriters' counsel, I represented investment banking clients in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York.

I was the campaign manager in Edward Rendell's successful 2002 campaign and served as Executive Director of Governor Rendell's transition team in 2002-3.

For the bulk of my career, I was a partner at two major law firms in Pennsylvania: Pepper Hamilton LLP and Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. My work focused on administrative and regulatory matters, legislative advocacy and public finance. I have represented clients before state and local agencies, boards and commissions – and in matters before the General Assembly and Executive Branch. My clients ranged from emerging companies to large businesses and major universities.

Most recently, I served as Senior Advisor to Governor Wolf on matters related to energy and economic development. In this role, I

served as liaison to the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, helping to spearhead the Governor's economic growth strategy for the Philadelphia region. In addition, I was the Governor's designee on the Banking and Securities Commission.

I believe this experience can serve the Commission well in the face of the many complicated and contentious issues it continuously confronts.

I commend the current PUC Commissioners for their professionalism, dedication to their work and their consistent, careful discretion in each and every case that comes before them. The subject matter under the PUC's purview is important, and its legislative mandate is sweeping.

Ensuring reliable utility service at fair and reasonable rates is, at bottom, the major role of the PUC.

Just as essential is the need to educate consumers on their service and its inner workings – and of their options when it comes to competitive retail energy markets. Providing consumers with the information needed to make educated decisions related to service and finances is of utmost importance. The Commission has done great work in this arena, and it will be a top priority of mine, should I be confirmed as a Commissioner by this Committee.

The General Assembly and the Governor determine the strike zone by enacting statutes. My training and experience have prepared me to be a good umpire – calling balls and strikes as the pitches are thrown, without any preconceived notions or pet theories.

As other Commissioner nominees have done before me, I pledge to be a responsible and respectful watchdog for consumers. I would be one of five independent Commissioners at an independent agency.

I am honored to have been nominated to this post by Governor Wolf, and I thank the members of the Senate who have, to a person, met with me and thoughtfully discussed the many policy issues that are before you.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my background with you today. I thank you for your consideration of my nomination to the Public Utility Commission, and I look forward to answering any questions you have.