

I write in support of the Commission's proposal to regulate attachments to existing and new utility poles in the Commonwealth – Docket L-2018-3002672

My view is that, unlike cell towers, utility poles are public infrastructure built on state and municipal property.

As such, they are a public good and restricting access to these poles by the levying of exorbitant and extortionary “fees” to prevent a service from being offered by the city to the public it serves borders on violation of monopoly and antitrust laws.

However, I do not support government regulation if it can be avoided. This is what angers me most about this case.

PPL will likely bemoan government regulation as an infringement of its business. But, the fact is PPL created this situation with unrealistic fees that could be termed as usury.

A middle ground could be found through reaching agreements in this and future conflicts that could be shaped through a working group or committee comprised of both public and private entities to ensure the needs of pole owners and those wishing to access the poles are encompassed in the agreement.

Sincerely,

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