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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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July 11, 2012

Chairman Robert F. Powelson  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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Re: Docket No. 1-2009-2107155

Dear Chairman Powelson:

I am writing to express my concern and to lend my support to concerns raised by my neighbors in the Queen Village Neighbors Association, Society Hill Civic Association, residents of Northern Liberties & Fishtown as well as members of the Preservation Alliance, in opposition to the proposal by the Public Utility Commission to relocate all interior gas meters and pressure regulators to the outside of historic homes.

Although the proposed regulations include certain exemptions for historic homes, the language in the proposal only recognizes properties which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Queen Village is a unique community which features over 900 buildings listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, some of which pre-date the American Revolution. Although some of these properties may qualify for National Registry status, as of this writing, not one has received that level of recognition.

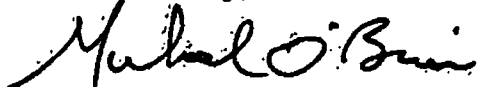
**Residents of Fishtown also require special consideration as portions of the Community were settled prior to the arrival of William Penn.**

**Further, I am concerned about the negative impact exterior utility equipment would have upon the historic character and general aesthetic of the neighborhood. In this modern age, surely there must be an alternative solution to enable unfettered access to meter readings that does not involve relocating existing equipment or installing new equipment to street-facing exteriors of homes. The Philadelphia Gas Works currently has external meters installed which do not require internal building entrance in order to read.**

**The efforts of the Public Utilities Commission to improve access to and increase the accuracy of meter readings are to be commended. However, the current proposal is not appropriate for historic row home communities in my district such as those mentioned earlier.**

**It is my deepest hope that the Public Utilities Commission will take these concerns into account and keep our community informed and involved as you proceed with this challenging project.**

Sincerely,



**MICHAEL H. O'BRIEN  
Member 175<sup>th</sup> District**

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