

**PUCO RESPONSE MEMORANDUM**

To: Michael Bender
Business Advocate
Ohio Lieutenant Governor's Common Sense Initiative Office

From: Jeffrey Jones
Legal Director
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Date: February 7, 2023

Re: PUCO Response for: Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-7 (Local Exchange Carriers).

In Case No. 22-48-TP-ORD, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) reviewed Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-7 as part of the statutory five-year review process, as well as to comply with R.C. 121.951(A)(1) which requires state agencies to reduce their total number of regulatory restrictions. The rules in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-7 set forth the rates, terms, and conditions by which telecommunications carriers transmit telecommunications messages across their respective networks.

By Entry issued April 20, 2022, the PUCO established a formal comment period to receive stakeholder feedback regarding the PUCO's five-year review modifications. A supplemental comment period was established from September 21, 2022, through October 17, 2022, to consider proposed regulatory restriction reductions. Comments were filed by Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association (OCTA) and the Ohio Telecom Association (OTA). Thereafter, the PUCO issued a Finding and Order on November 30, 2022, adopting a number of suggested revisions offered by OCTA and OTA proposed changes to the rules as set forth in the order. On December 29, 2022, the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office replied to the PUCO, stating that CSI had no recommendations, and concluding that the PUCO should proceed with formal filing of the rules package with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). In light of CSI's conclusion, the PUCO will proceed and file these rules with JCARR.

cc: Joseph Baker, Director, Common Sense Initiative Office
Jay Agranoff, Chief of Telecommunications and Water and Wastewater, Legal Department, PUCO