

**Public Utilities
Commission****PUCO.Ohio.gov**

Mike DeWine, Governor Jon Husted, Lt. Governor Jenifer French, Chair

PUCO RESPONSE MEMORANDUM

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

From: Jay Agranoff
Chief of Telecommunications and Water
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Date: June 13, 2024

Re: PUCO Response for: Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-6 (Retail
Telecommunications Services).

In Case No. 23-817-TP-ORD, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) reviewed Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-6 to comply with R.C. 111.15(B) which requires state agencies to conduct a review, every five years, of their rules and to determine whether to continue their rules without change, amend their rules, or rescind their rules. The rules in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-6 establishes the procedures and standards for telephone companies in the state of Ohio.

On September 20, 2023, the Commission held a workshop in this proceeding to enable interested stakeholders to propose revisions to the rules in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-6 for the Commission's consideration. The Ohio Telecom Association (OTA) proposed revisions to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-11, 4901:1-6-14(J), 4901:1-6-14(K), 4901:1-6-25(D), and 4901:1-6-33. By Entry issued November 1, 2023, the PUCO established a formal comment period to receive stakeholder feedback regarding the Commission Staff's proposed modifications. Comments were filed by the OTA, with reply comments jointly filed by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, LLC (jointly, Consumer Groups). Thereafter, the PUCO issued a Finding and Order on February 21, 2024, adopting the proposed rules, including revisions. On March 22, 2024, the OTA filed an application for rehearing. On April 1, 2024, Consumer Groups filed a memorandum contra the OTA's application for rehearing. On April 17, 2024, the Commission issued its Entry on Rehearing granting, in part, and

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Lawrence K. Friedman

John D. Williams

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denying, in part, the OTA's application for rehearing. On June 12, 2024, 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
 Jeffrey Jones, Legal Director, PUCO

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