

LETTERHEAD

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1231
Public Service Commission-Damaged, Obsolete, or Excessive Lines-Fines

Economic Matters Committee
February 25, 2021

Chair Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in support of HB1231. I am a homeowner in Butchers Hill and have a sincere interest in this Bill being passed. I am one of the few people in the city that are fortunate enough to have green space included in their home property. When I bought my home in 2016, I also acquired the two vacant lots adjacent to it. Over the years, I've worked hard to recondition the soil, plant native trees and other flora, and invite nature's creatures to enjoy the space. My neighbors are also frequent guests that benefit from this unique property. While the landscape has been transformed, the skyline has been an ugly and imposing nuisance to this city sanctuary.

When I first bought my properties, I made MANY complaints to BGE, Verizon, and Comcast. If I was lucky enough to have someone actually follow through with a service visit, they would blame the offending wires on someone else and leave the scene without any action. I made it a point to be home when service technicians arrived so that I could speak with them and urge some kind of response - but nothing. This became a vicious cycle of deflection to which my best efforts were no match.

Beyond being an eyesore, these utility lines actually transverse my yard – some within arms' reach. They are a daily imposition on my gardening and recreational activities. My native trees want to thrive, but their growth is met with obstruction from the wires. I play fetch with my dogs and am limited in where and how high I can throw their toys. Is it even legal for these wires to cross the lot lines like this?

My specific complaints are only a fraction of the problem. The inaction of our city, and the responsible utility companies, to take reasonable and corrective action is detriment to quality of life and property values for us all.

Comcast and Verizon must be held responsible for cleaning up the wire garbage littering our neighborhoods and blue skies. And it must happen with urgency. This is not a new problem. It has been a well-known issue for years and the complaints from residents have been abundant. These companies have had plenty of time to clean up their acts on their own terms.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB1231.

Thank you for your time and action.

Sincerely,

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