

**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,

TESTIMONY

Good afternoon;

As a long-time resident and property owner in Baltimore, I am writing today to ask you to support HB1231. In my community, there are three alley streets (Regester, Durham and Chapel) and these alleys in particular are riddled with these "zombie wires". The wires are ugly, abandoned, useless, and potentially dangerous and it is incomprehensible that to date, the cable, satellite dish, and phone companies hold no responsibility for removing these lines and their abandoned equipment. In all honesty, Baltimore City in general needs to stop bowing down to huge for-profit corporations just so they "can" do business in our City.

Frederick Douglas said it poignantly. "***Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.***"

So with this bill, the people of Baltimore and I, are saying that we are tired of quietly submitting to powerful for-profit corporations and that we are resisting with the words of legislation to demand that the cable and phone companies make good on their negligence.

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

***Lisa Knickmeyer***

207 S. Wolfe St.

Baltimore, MD 21231

[lisaKjoeR@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaKjoeR@hotmail.com)