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**Ohio Municipal League, Other Local Governments Respond to
Withdrawal of AT&T Tariff Request**

Tariff Changes Related to Utility Relocations Should Be Fully Transparent

[COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 16, 2025] – The Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, Ohio Township Association, County Commissioners Association of Ohio, County Engineers Association, and local government entities they represent are responding today to the withdrawal of AT&T’s proposed tariff request with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

Background

On Dec. 18, 2024, AT&T filed a proposed tariff request with PUCO that would impact local governments by requiring any governmental entity requesting the relocation and undergrounding of communications facilities existing in a public right of way to pay the cost incurred by AT&T for such a relocation.

To prevent the tariff from becoming effective Jan. 18, 2025, the local government associations along with many local political jurisdictions, on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, filed a motion to intervene with PUCO to challenge the tariff. The intervention filing can be viewed here. Shortly thereafter, AT&T withdrew its request, saying it will work collaboratively with interested parties.

The change would have significantly shifted costs to local governments doing infrastructure projects in their own right of ways, ultimately falling on the backs of Ohio taxpayers. This includes projects for safety or public welfare purposes. Local governments are committed to protecting taxpayer dollars as this issue moves forward.

While the local government entities that filed the intervention are pleased AT&T withdrew its request, the withdrawal filed by AT&T makes it clear that the issue has not concluded.

The tariff request was filed by AT&T on Dec. 18, 2024, when many stakeholders were taking time off from work for the holidays. As local governments who are accustomed to public input, open meetings and the public records process, our hope is that this issue

will be handled in an open and transparent manner that respects the fiduciary responsibilities of local governments when spending public money.

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The Ohio Municipal League (OML) serves as the primary connection point between municipal and state government in Ohio, representing the interests of cities and villages to state lawmakers and the governor's administration. OML effectively advocates for its member municipalities, inspires and informs on best practices, and works alongside government, business, non-profit, and educational leaders – all of whom are important partners in creating stronger Ohio communities.