

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105**

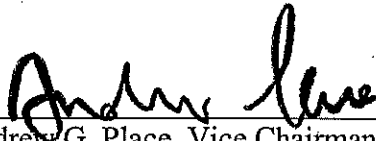
**STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE**

Over the last thirteen days, there have been many conversations about the President's Executive Order prohibiting entry or reentry to the United States of individuals from certain countries for a period of ninety days – and much remains in flux. This Commission has no mechanism for knowing how many utility customers are being affected by this Executive Order. However, given the diversity of Pennsylvania's 12.5 million residents and as there are half a million legal permanent residents from the identified countries residing in the United States, some of our neighbors, who I emphasize, legally reside in the Commonwealth, almost certainly have been temporarily detained or may currently be unable to return to their homes. This disruption in the lives of Pennsylvania's residents and their families affects jobs, education and communities, as well as the ability of individuals and families to remain current with their payments to the utilities providing their households with essential services.

I encourage the Commission and the Commonwealth's regulated public utilities to recognize and attend to those customers and families who have been adversely affected by this federal directive and to provide assistance, whenever possible, to minimize the risks to essential utility services.

I am an immigrant, as are members and children of my staff, many Commission staff, as well as many of my former colleagues at EQT and Carnegie Mellon – including many from the seven countries currently being indiscriminately targeted. I argue that we have a shared responsibility to ensure that members of our communities are able to maintain their homes and utility services during this time that they are unable, by this unforeseeable change in circumstance, to lawfully re-enter or reside in the United States or during the time that their families must manage without them.

**DATE: February 9, 2017**

  
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Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman