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**Testimony to the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee  
In Support of HB 2589  
February 8, 2024**

Chairman Delperdang and Committee Members:

In the last two decades, law enforcement has been utilizing technology to assist with investigations involving violent crimes, drug sales, gambling operations, burglary rings and fencing operations, to name a few. Part of the technology that has been utilized involves video recording devices. Pole cameras are the most utilized surveillance techniques.

The three ways a pole camera can be utilized is with a search warrant, written permission from a home or business owner or placing the camera in a location that is within the public right-of-way. This has been established through court rulings. In the past the utility companies were gracious enough to allow law enforcement to place these cameras on their poles and even install them with no cost.

In the past couple of years, the utility companies changed their stance on placing video recording devices on their property for fear of being liable at any point in the investigation or trial. Law enforcement understood their dilemma.

HB 2589 clearly states that the utility company may enter into a pole attachment agreement with law enforcement to allow for the attachment and operation of law enforcement equipment. The pole attachment agreement would require the law enforcement agency to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the public utility from and against all liability relating to the public utility's actions.

In section (b) the bill allows for the public utility to access reasonable fees or charges to recover the actual costs of attachment, maintenance, or removal of the law enforcement equipment.

All three associations believe this will assist the utility companies in assisting us with our investigations and if the fees or charges are reasonable, we support this portion of the bill as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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