

JOHN A. LAWRENCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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Greg Carey
PECO Energy
1050 West Swedesford Rd
Berwyn, PA 19312

August 8, 2014

Dear Greg –

I trust all is well.

As State Representative, I often receive calls from constituents having issues with their electrical service. Often their particular issue is best addressed by PECO, and you and your team have been of great assistance on a number of issues over the year.

Occasionally, I receive a call from a concerned citizen with regard to an electrical power surge. The surge often causes major damage to appliances, electronics, and agricultural equipment. Often the constituent tell me that PECO was contacted, and the operator advised that the surge in question was due to an "Act of God" such as a thunderstorm.

However, I noticed a pattern of these power surges centralized in a few specific locations in Southern Chester County. Of particular interest, the same homeowners have experienced multiple power surges over the past few years. Some have lost tens of thousands of dollars of personal property, only to replace it and see it lost again and again. Several have reported that even an installed "whole-house" electrical breaker did not stop the damage from repeated power surges. Several have advised that their insurance company has hinted that their homeowner's insurance could be cancelled.

In addition, I had a constituent stop by who works for Delmarva Power and lives in Chester County in an area that has seen multiple power surges. He advised that several blown lightning arresters have not been replaced. While I cannot confirm that, it fits in with the pattern of activity.

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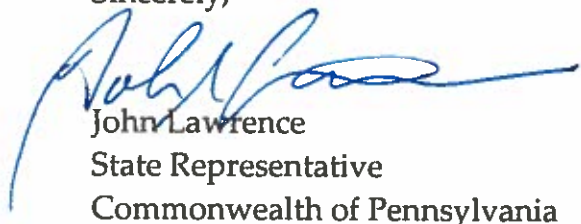
It seems to me that a single power surge at a given property is probably an anomaly, but two, three or more in a short time span is cause for review and concern. After it became clear to me that several areas in Southern Chester County were seeing this unusual activity, I made a point of reaching out to the affected homeowners, asking for as much information as possible. This information has been collated by my office and is attached for your review. In addition, a constituent dropped off some more information on additional power surge issues late on the day today in my office – we will collate this information and send it to you early next week.

With all of this in mind, I would greatly appreciate it if PECO could review the power lines, poles, and equipment in the affected areas to determine the problem. The first course of action should be to remediate the current problem to prevent future issues to the greatest extent possible. At this point, the affected homeowners are truly living in fear that any day another power surge could come along and cause tremendous loss of property.

Second, while PECO generally pays a \$500 maximum to a homeowner who loses property due to an electrical issue, it seems to me that PECO should compensate the affected homeowners for all losses resulting from faulty PECO equipment. If the repeated power surges in question are indeed the result of PECO equipment issues, I would ask that PECO reimburse those affected.

I would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and I look forward to speaking with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,


John Lawrence
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania