

March 18, 2019

SB 219

Testimony by Paul Truitt, Vice President of Field Maintenance & Operations, Cox
In Support





These units receive electricity from the power company and through the magic of electronics, converts the power, and transfers it to our network which provides our Cox services throughout Wichita metro area. When we lose electricity to these units, there are batteries and generators in the units that kick in and seamlessly transfer back up power to our network – **customer is never disrupted**. When these batteries are not in the cabinets and we lose commercial power, our **customers experience service disruptions**. The thefts started to pick up in 2015, and each year we have seen an increase in these thefts.

What Steps Have We Taken?

- We have used Data Dot technology (sprays micro decals on battery) and marking battery location with black light marker
- Installed security cameras at on units that have been hit multiple times
- We have placed 3 decoy batteries in cabinets that alarm us when they are moved and we can track their location.
- Installed security bars to make it harder to remove batteries

Wichita Area Thefts	2017	2018
Batteries Stolen	509	802
Cabinets Damaged	186	330
Total Cost	\$185,000	\$312,595

Where are they taking these batteries?

They are taking them to Allpak Battery stores and metal recycling locations in Wichita. The dealers are NOT contacting WPD when they get our batteries. Law enforcement has made them aware and they know how to identify Cox’s batteries as they are not sold in retail stores and have specific labeling.

Power Supply After theft



With Security bar installed



Theft cutting security bar

