



Pennsylvania Wireless Association

August 9, 2018

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RE: PA Wireless Association Testimony, PA House Consumer Affairs Committee Public Hearing on HB2564

Good Morning Chairman Godshall, Chairman Caltagirone and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barb Burba. I serve as Vice President of the Board of Directors and Chairperson for the Public Policy Committee of the PA Wireless Association. The PA Wireless Association represents the entire ecosystem of the wireless industry in our Commonwealth - from the carriers to companies that provide components and equipment for wireless infrastructure to engineers and other professionals who plan, design and engineer these facilities and the contractors, tower climbers, mechanics and electricians who erect the communications towers on-site, all of whom facilitate infrastructure development that keeps Pennsylvanians connected. In all, the wireless industry already creates over 102,000 jobs in Pennsylvania alone, and adds \$ 16.2 Billion to the Commonwealth's economy. Personally, I own and operate a Certified Woman Owned Business and a Certified Small Business called Amerisite Wireless Development, based right here in the Harrisburg area. I have been in the industry for 12 years and my business performs Site Acquisition Services, Construction and New Site Development for Telecom Carriers and Tower Companies.

The PA Wireless Association encourages you to support House Bill 2564. The Members of PA Wireless Association have built the commonwealth wireless systems to date and will continue to play a roll in all future technology.

Massive increases in wireless data usage are requiring the industry to move quickly to meet customer demand. By 2021, mobile data traffic is expected to be 5 times 2016's record levels, and mobile connections are expected to increase by 30 percent. Currently, in Pennsylvania, we have over 13.4 subscriber connections.



In addition to needing to meet growing demand, we need to help build a new 5G network, which will bring more capacity, higher speeds and faster load times for Pennsylvanians. By building out this infrastructure, we'll make our cities smarter, our hospitals better connected, our online education systems more efficient and our communities safer. We will improve the overall quality of life for Pennsylvanians who demand better and faster mobile broadband connections.

It's good for jobs and the economy, too. A study by Accenture last year found "...telecom operators are expected to invest approximately \$275 billion in infrastructure, which could create up to 3 million jobs and boost GDP by \$500 billion." In five cities alone, Reading, Scranton, Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre and Allentown, it is projected that 5G will promote over \$570 Million dollars in revenue and create almost 4000 new jobs. Being at the forefront of the latest technology in our cities makes Pennsylvania more competitive and marketable overall.

This legislation will help our industry deliver on the promise of a 5G future. It preserves Pennsylvania's tradition of local control and authority, while speeding up the application review and setting reasonable application and other fees.

This enhanced investment highlighted in the Accenture report will not only support the overall economy across business sectors but will have direct benefit to small and medium sized businesses here in Pennsylvania that are members of the PA Wireless Association. I expect to see more demand for business with my company and my competitors around the Commonwealth who are also involved in site selection. As a General Contractor in the commonwealth, my growth will trickle down to other small businesses, both in and out of the Telecom arena, and both union and non-union businesses. As I subcontract electricians, civil workers, tower climbers, Hardware vendors, engineers and those providing services throughout the wireless ecosystem, they all will see increased demand for their business.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the Pennsylvanians are able to stay connected and to take full advantage of the wireless broadband services offered by carriers across Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Barbara A Burba

Amerisite Wireless Development, LLC-CEO

PA Wireless Association- Vice President