

## **Statement of PA Municipal Associations Regarding the Hearing before the Telecommunications Subcommittee on Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Bill**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML), Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB), and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), we would like to thank you for inviting us to testify today regarding a new Small Wireless Facilities Deployment bill. Due to the time constraints imposed by the short notice to our organizations, as well as the scheduling conflicts of some of the invitees, however, we regret that we are not able to provide testimony.

Unfortunately, our associations did not receive the invitation until late Friday afternoon, which gave us just two business days to prepare for the hearing. It is simply not possible for our organizations to do the following in two days: 1) obtain the bill, as the invitation did not provide it to us; 2) review and analyze the bill; 3) formulate a legislative position and synthesize that position among the staffs of our respective organizations; 4) arrange conference calls with our respective Boards to approve our position; 5) draft testimony for the public hearing; and 6) circulate the draft testimony among our associations for review, comment, and completion.

In addition, PSAB's Annual Conference and Exhibition is taking place this week from June 9 through June 12. This is PSAB's largest conference and PSAB staff, including its Government Affairs team, is fully occupied with running the conference. This conflict prevents them from attending the hearing.

We remain very interested in the subject matter of the bill as it will impact our municipalities with respect to their state-mandated obligation to manage the public rights-of-way and protect public safety, as well as the critical public policy objective of expanding broadband deployment in rural areas. We also understand the importance of small cell deployment in the Commonwealth in meeting the needs of residents, businesses, emergency services and others. We seek a balance between fulfilling our local obligations and deploying wireless infrastructure.

Once we have completed a proper review of the bill, we would then welcome the opportunity to meet with the sponsor, representatives from the wireless infrastructure industry, and the Telecommunications Subcommittee. We respectfully request, however, that such a meeting be coordinated with our calendars and be scheduled for a date and time that is convenient for all parties, including any technical advisors necessary to the discussion. Thank you again and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.