



Wireless  
Infrastructure  
Association

Testimony of

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Before the

House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee on Telecommunications

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PA HB 1400 SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Farry and members of the committee,

Thank you for holding this important hearing on House Bill 1400 (HB 1400). My name is Arturo Chang, and I am State Government Affairs Counsel at the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) testifying in support of this bill. WIA is the principal trade association representing the companies that build, own, and manage wireless facilities in Pennsylvania and throughout the U.S. WIA works to support the delivery of advanced wireless services to communities across the country in a responsible and sustainable manner to maintain American leadership in the global race to 5G.

HB 1400 is a balanced approach that encourages deployment of small 5G infrastructure while ensuring that localities retain the necessary authority to regulate the continuity of structures being built in the public rights-of-way. A state-wide streamlined approach provides greater predictability that will encourage private investment in these next generation networks. This effort will usher in 5G services that will create jobs, stimulate local economies, and bring efficiencies in local government services, from trash collection to traffic management.

Pennsylvania consumers are using more wireless data than ever and are dependent on being connected in their everyday lives. Specifically, over forty-one percent of



Pennsylvania households have “cut the cord” and rely entirely on wireless services.<sup>1</sup> We anticipate that number increasing over the next few years. HB 1400 would allow the wireless industry to invest in Pennsylvania, which will result in greater infrastructure investment, increased capacity, and advanced wireless connectivity.

Furthermore, 5G will bring many benefits to Pennsylvania, including more innovative services and technology for smart cities. Smart cities use electronic data collection sensors for connected services in public safety, public works, telemedicine, autonomous vehicles, and more. For instance, telemedicine expands healthcare services by increasing remote access to treatment. These new innovations and advanced services will make communities safer and more efficient. Recent studies estimate that the wireless industry will invest millions of dollars throughout Pennsylvania in deploying small wireless facilities and 5G services that will, in turn, increase Pennsylvania’s GDP and create thousands of new jobs.<sup>2</sup>

To date, 26 states have adopted legislation that expedites the deployment of small cell including Pennsylvania neighbors West Virginia, Ohio, and Delaware. The tri-state area is also very active on this matter with bills currently being considered in New Jersey and New York. The enactment of HB1400 would ensure that Pennsylvania remains a leader in innovation and connectivity throughout the region, and it would allow Pennsylvania to avail itself to an injection of private capital and investment to further advance wireless connectivity in the commonwealth.

Thank you again, Chairman Farry and members of the Committee, for holding this hearing. WIA appreciates your consideration as it continues to support Pennsylvanian and American innovation in the global race to 5G competitiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> Wireless Substitution: State-level Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2017, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL – NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS, NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM (released March 2019), *available at* <https://bit.ly/2TYU8vK>.

<sup>2</sup> See The Race to 5G, CTIA – Everything Wireless, 5G Economic Impact for Pennsylvania, *available at* <https://www.ctia.org/5g/print?state=PA>.