

PENNSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP FOR 5G

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: HB 1400

FROM: Ashley Henry Shook, Spokesperson, PA Partnership for 5G

DATE: June 10, 2019

Esteemed Members of the Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee:

My name is Ashley Henry Shook, and I am the Spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G, a business and technology advocacy group supporting the deployment of 5G technology infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth.

The PA Partnership for 5G currently has 41 members: Accelerate PA; AE Works; Allegheny County; Amphenol Antenna Solutions; Biondo Creative; ConneCTel; Crown Castle; DQE Communications; Ectobox; Expedient; Facebook; Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; Highmark Health; Innovative Technology Holdings; Omni Bedford Springs Resort; Omni William Penn Hotel; OSP; PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute; Pennsylvania Economic Development Association; Pennsylvania Professional FireFighters Association; Pennsylvania Wireless Association; PerfectVision Manufacturing; Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies; Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #5; Philly By Air; Pittsburgh Downtown Community Development Corporation; Pittsburgh Film Office; Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC; Pittsburgh Technology Council; Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau; Robert Morris University; S4W; SDLC Partners; Sierra Experts; Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; Susquehanna Technology Association; Technology Council of Central PA; Velocity Network; VisitPittsburgh; Wall-to-Wall Studios; and Wireless Infrastructure Association.

On behalf of our members, I would like to express our appreciation for convening a committee hearing devoted to discussing HB 1400 – the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act.

The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G is supportive of statewide legislation that sets standards for fees, provides a streamlined permitting process and creates an environment which enables small cell deployment. It is our hope HB 1400 will also reflect these principles as it moves through the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

A legislative framework for the deployment of small cell nodes, the backbone by which 5G technology will be supported, is critical. It's why more than 25 states across the country, including Ohio, Illinois, and West Virginia, have already enacted such legislation. Now is the time for Pennsylvania to do the same. We believe that providing a consistent timeline and fee structure across Pennsylvania's 2500+ municipalities will help promote expansion of 5G infrastructure beyond Pennsylvania's major metropolitan areas, and into more rural parts of the state.

5G is the 5th generation mobile network, the next evolution of wireless standards. But 5G is less of an evolution of 4G and more of a wireless revolution. 5G is a new kind of network: A platform for innovations that will not only enhance today's mobile broadband services but will also expand mobile networks to support a vast diversity of devices and services and connect new industries with improved performance, efficiency, and cost. Many see 5G technology as transformative as the automobile or electricity.

When 5G-capable devices become available in 2020, Pennsylvanians – your constituents – are going to expect and ultimately demand access to this technology, especially those in urban and suburban settings



where demand is beginning to exceed capacity. Yet, Pennsylvania currently lacks the infrastructure needed for 5G service. It's why the PA Partnership for 5G was formed. Our members collectively recognize the need for policy makers to understand the ramifications it will cause if Pennsylvania is not providing a regulatory environment that promotes small cell deployment.

The PA Partnership for 5G believes that HB 1400 will establish an application fee that allows municipalities to cover their costs relative to the processing of applications; grant municipalities a reasonable amount of time to review applications; and require infrastructure providers to take into account the aesthetic of a neighborhood in their design. As a result, the bill cannot be characterized as infringing on a locality's ability to control its right-of-way. Municipalities that oppose HB 1400 or that may seek a carve-out are jeopardizing their community's timely access to 5G technology.

According to Accenture, 5G technology will help create 3 million new jobs, \$500 billion in GDP and \$275 billion in private investment. Meanwhile, the 5G infrastructure market is estimated to reach \$2.86 billion by 2020, before reaching \$33.72 billion by 2026.¹

Driverless technology, robotic deliveries, first responder networks, traffic flow solutions, and other data-driven services, many of which are found in today's smart homes and appliances, will require a 5G network to operate efficiently. The public safety, economic development, and business implications are just now beginning to be realized and quantified.

5G deployment will be especially impactful to public safety and first responders. Today, over half of American households are wireless-only and 80% of 911 calls originate from a mobile device—making reliable coverage in homes more important than ever. First responders need reliable service that is available at all times of day and in all geographic locations. In addition, 5G will help enable the Wireless Emergency Alerts system, which has been used more than 40,000 times to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children and other critical situations since 2012.

Healthcare costs have continued to rise, but 5G will enable telemedicine and remote healthcare that will help lower those costs and improve patient service. Virtual doctor visits are approximately 75% less expensive than a traditional doctor's visit, allowing patients to be more consistent in their check-ups and realize better outcomes. In an emergency medical situation, ambulance personnel can connect with doctors at the hospital, saving precious time patient treatment. With 5G, doctors can also utilize remote monitoring devices to help patients living in isolated areas gain access to medical assistance.

If we want to remain competitive, it is imperative that Pennsylvania is prepared to reap these benefits. The PA Partnership for 5G is hopeful that HB 1400 can establish a reasonable, predictable, and uniform deployment of small cells across jurisdictions so that Pennsylvania is not left behind in the race for 5G.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and I hope you will do your part to ensure Pennsylvania is placed at the forefront of this technological transformation.

Respectfully,

Ashley Henry Shook

¹ <https://api.ctia.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/how-5g-can-help-municipalities-become-vibrant-smart-cities-accenture.pdf>



PA Partnership for 5G
www.papartnershipfor5G.com

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About the PA Partnership for 5G: The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G aims to educate different sectors about 5G technology and the infrastructure it requires. The Partnership brings together various leaders from a diverse set of industries and constituencies to help forge a technologically progressive Pennsylvania.