



TO: Members of the Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee
SUBJECT: Testimony - May 25, 2021 public hearing on telecommunications deployment
FROM: Ashley Henry Shook, Spokesperson, Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G
DATE: May 24, 2021

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 education and advocacy group supporting the deployment of 5G technology infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G represents nearly 60 organizations across a broad spectrum of industries throughout the Commonwealth, including the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, Pittsburgh Technology Council, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Robert Morris University, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development, Highmark Health, and UPMC, to name a few. A full membership listing is attached to this testimony.

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting with you or your staff to talk about why this topic is so incredibly timely. The pandemic has certainly illuminated the importance of connectivity. After all, we're learning from home; we're working remotely; and telemedicine visits have been normalized. Online portals are used to secure vaccination appointments.

Despite our collective recognition that connectivity matters to every household, student, and business across the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania has yet to tap into the truly transformative power of 5G, primarily because we haven't advanced a framework to fully deploy the infrastructure that will support 5G networks. The delay in securing ubiquitous 5G access for PA consumers is due, in part, to inaction in adopting statewide small cell legislation.

Cell towers, fiber, and small cell nodes work together to create an ecosystem of connectivity, with small cells creating the backbone for 5G, the fifth generation of mobile networks. The innovative potential of 5G is not only expected to be a boon for economic development, it will also support a whole host of technological advancements, including remote surgery and patient monitoring, robotic deliveries, precision agriculture, autonomous vehicles, and various Smart City applications.

Why do small cells impact economic development? Because businesses – and developers and parents and healthcare facilities and entertainment venues – want to be located where they have wireless coverage and wireless capacity; small cells do both. They provide coverage in rural areas and they provide capacity in dense urban areas where networks are already strained due to the number of new devices that continue to come online.

In the absence of statewide legislation, each individual municipality has established its own process for small cell deployment. With over 2,500 municipalities in Pennsylvania, there's a different process, timeframe, and cost associated with how this infrastructure is getting deployed across the state. As a result, it's costing time, and it's costing money.

Let's talk about time first. According to our members, it can take any single Pennsylvania municipality an average of 6 months to approve a small cell permit. If it took you 6 months to secure a permit for a home improvement project, how much costlier of a project would it become? How likely would you be to just abandon the idea or change up your plans completely?

With continued inaction on small cell legislation, we're losing out on the \$275 billion dollars in private investment that is currently up for grabs. Keep in mind that 31 other states have already enacted statewide small cell legislation, which means they've created a regulatory environment that is predictable, uniform, and consistent. It's why more than 70 percent of 5G deployments are occurring in states where legislation has already been enacted, including neighboring states such as Ohio, West Virginia, and Delaware.

What's similarly compelling is that these states have passed small cell legislation in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion. I'd encourage you to review the map also attached to this testimony that shows which states have adopted legislation to date and the vote tallies for each state across both Chambers. Those are the states that are experiencing rapid small cell deployment and the associated buildout of 5G networks, spurring economic development and innovation.

While I may be a part of the industry panel today, the Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G doesn't represent telecommunications alone. In fact, we represent every other industry that makes Pennsylvania successful. From healthcare to education, from agriculture to tourism, I'm here representing those industries. And those industries agree, they need 5G, especially as we all strive to meet the evolving demands of an increasingly digitized world. We extend a standing invitation to each of you to meet with our members and discuss why this legislation is so critical for the state's economic viability.

On behalf of our members, I urge you to move swiftly and introduce and adopt small cell legislation. Thank you for your time and attention today.

Respectfully,

Ashley Henry Shook
Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G
<https://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.

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- Wireless Infrastructure Association
- Facebook
- Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry
- Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute
- Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association
- Pennsylvania Wireless Association
- Pennsylvania Economic Development Association
- Accelerate PA
- Velocity Network
- Innovative Technology Holdings
- OSP
- Biondo Creative
- S4W
- Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #5
- Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies
- Philly By Air
- Amphenol Antenna Solutions
- PerfectVision Manufacturing
- The Technology Council of Central PA
- Omni Bedford Springs Resort
- The Susquehanna Technology Association
- Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Allegheny County
- The Pittsburgh Technology Council
- Visit Pittsburgh
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- The Pittsburgh Film Office
- Pittsburgh Downtown Community Development Corporation
- Omni William Penn Hotel
- Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC
- AE Works
- Attribution Cyber Consulting
- connecTel Wireless Inc.
- Crown Castle
- DQE Communications
- Ectobox
- Expedient
- Highmark Health
- Robert Morris University
- SDLC Partners
- Sierra Experts
- TrailBlaze Creative
- Wall-to-Wall Studios
- Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc.
- National Electrical Contractors Association, Western Pennsylvania Chapter
- National Electrical Contractors Association, Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter

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- Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- PA Drone Association
- Innovative Public Safety
- UPMC
- Bloomfield Robotics
- Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development
- Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
- Gateway Health