



October 19, 2018

Honorable Paul Sarlo  
Chair, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee  
New Jersey Senate  
Statehouse  
P.O. Box 099  
Trenton, NJ, 08625-0099

Re: Support for S.2518

Dear Chair Sarlo:

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write in support of S.2518, which removes existing tax, business registration, and other requirements that impede the ability of businesses, including communications companies, utilities, and other infrastructure companies, to rapidly respond to a declared disaster or emergency. Twenty-eight states have enacted similar legislation recognizing the need to ensure that wireless companies can deploy personnel and resources into the state as quickly as possible to respond to the needs of our customers. In addition, the National Conference of State Legislatures has adopted this bill as model legislation, and the Multistate Tax Commission has endorsed this legislation.

Consumers have come to rely on wireless service in all aspects of life, particularly during disasters and emergency situations. When such events occur, the wireless industry is committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to ensure vital communication systems remain intact and service is rapidly restored. Due to the importance of wireless communications during disasters, the wireless industry needs the flexibility to bring out-of-state personnel and equipment to restore communications systems.

S.2518 includes important provisions that will facilitate the wireless industry's rapid response to disasters and emergencies. The legislation recognizes the temporary nature of a declared disaster and relaxes thresholds for establishing an in-state presence for employees and resources. For example, wireless providers need the flexibility to bring out-of-state employees into the state temporarily without having to subject those employees to state or local tax withholding or payments or subject them to state licensing or registration requirements during a declared disaster. Employees and employers will instead continue to be subject to taxes and other requirements in their home state during the declared disaster time period.



In closing, the wireless industry respectfully urges committee passage of this important legislation. It will help accelerate disaster restoration efforts and get the state and its citizens on the road to recovery after disasters and emergency situations.

Sincerely,

Gerard Keegan  
Assistant Vice President  
State Legislative Affairs

cc: Members, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee