

May 1, 2019



The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Alexander:



We write to urge the Senate to pass the South Carolina Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act (H.4262) during the 2019 Session.



This economic development bill is urgently needed to stem the tide of investment that currently is bypassing South Carolina on its way to more than 20 other states that already have passed similar legislation. H.4262 will invite that investment into South Carolina by providing a streamlined, predictable process for the wireless industry to deploy advanced wireless broadband technology in public rights of way (while ensuring that local governments retain the ability to appropriately address aesthetic concerns). This technology is needed to bring South Carolina citizens and businesses the increased wireless capacity and capabilities they are demanding, and H.4262 invites investment in this technology **without providing the industry any tax credits or other financial incentives.**



The bill is the result of deliberate negotiation and compromise by many parties, including the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Delaying passage until next year, therefore, will not result in a better bill. But delaying passage will deprive local governments of the additional application fees, right-of-way access fees, and tax revenues they will receive under the bill, and delaying passage will continue depriving South Carolina of critically-needed wireless broadband investment and the jobs and economic development that will accompany that investment.



According to a study by *The Lost Economy* project¹, reforming infrastructure policies, as H.4262 will do, could result in:

- \$3.89 billion invested in South Carolina,
- 6,973 additional jobs per year,
- \$7.58 billion impact on South Carolina's Gross Domestic Product, and
- \$17.5 billion in statewide consumer benefits from 5G services.



Advanced wireless technology (like small cells) is a crucial piece of the economic development puzzle. As the name suggests, small cells are small, wireless technology that provide additional wireless broadband capacity to congested areas. Small cell technology is also needed for Smart Cities, the Internet of Things (IoT), and 5G.



As a result of the deliberate negotiations mentioned above, the cable industry, the rural telephone companies, and the Municipal Association are neutral on the bill.

We respectfully encourage you to vote "yes" on H.4262 to allow the wireless industry to invest, create jobs, and bring the many benefits of enhanced wireless technologies to South Carolina.

¹ http://thelosteconomy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Lost_Economy_One_Pager-South-Carolina.pdf