



February 4, 2020

The Honorable Michael W. Gambrell
Chair, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee
610 Gressette
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: Support H. 4262 – South Carolina Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act

Dear Chairman Gambrell,

On behalf of CTIA, the national trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to express strong support for H. 4262, related to the efficient and streamlined deployment of small wireless facilities. This legislation creates a critical framework to promote job creation, economic investment and opportunity throughout South Carolina.

The people of South Carolina continue to demand – at increasing levels – access to wireless products and services. This is demonstrated by the fact that there are nearly as many wireless devices as there are people in South Carolina.¹ In addition, over half of South Carolina residents live in wireless-only households.² The continually-growing demand from customers, which includes the residents and businesses of South Carolina, require that wireless networks be both updated to meet the existing demand and readied for the next generation of wireless services.

Specifically, the existing rules governing wireless networks are designed for wireless facilities that can be up to 200 feet tall or more. Tomorrow's networks will rely on new small cell technology, which will be placed on structures such as utility poles and streetlights. These new networks need new rules and H. 4262 establishes an updated common sense framework to facilitate millions of dollars in new investment in South Carolina.

Small cells will provide needed additional capacity to accommodate growing consumer demands and help connect 100 times more devices. In a few short years, nearly everything will be connected to ubiquitous wireless networks at speeds up to 100 times faster than today, thanks to the framework established by H. 4262. Small cells will help unlock new 5G services from remote healthcare solutions to autonomous cars. South Carolina's communities will be smarter and more connected, and entire sectors, from public safety to tourism, to transportation, will be transformed.

¹ FCC, Voice Telephone Services Report: Status as of December 31, 2017, at <https://www.fcc.gov/voice-telephone-services-report>, last accessed 1/30/2020.

² CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/Wireless_state_201912-508.pdf, last accessed 1/30/2020.



Accenture has found that 5G and small cell deployments will provide tremendous economic benefits. Specifically, Accenture estimates that wireless operators will invest as much as \$275 billion nationwide over seven years creating up to three million jobs and adding approximately \$500 billion to the U.S. GDP through direct and indirect potential benefits.³ In South Carolina, 5G deployment in a community like Charleston may create over 1,200 jobs and increase GDP by over \$200 million, and in a community like Florence may create over 350 jobs and increase GDP by nearly \$60 million.⁴

In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recognized the importance of winning the global race to 5G and the need to expedite the deployment of small wireless infrastructure to help reach that goal. With its issuance of the State and Local Wireless Infrastructure Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order (Order), the FCC set guardrails – including clear timelines and cost-based fees – around state and local siting practices.⁵ These reforms are timely and necessary, and they provide clarity to both communities and applicants while respecting the important role that states and localities continue to play in the siting process.

While the FCC’s leadership is critical, there are two key areas the Order does not address that H. 4262 does, notably “permitted use” and deemed granted. The “permitted use” construct ensures that a zoning hearing is not required for every submitted small cell application. A zoning hearing for every small cell application would drain local resources and treat small cells like 200-foot tall macro cell towers, thereby delaying deployment, and more importantly, delaying the benefits of enhanced wireless services and 5G for the citizens of South Carolina. Additionally, H. 4262 provides that a permit application is deemed granted if the local authority does not approve or deny the request within a certain time. This provision ensures that inaction on an application does not delay deployment of small wireless infrastructure.

In closing, over the past three years, 28 states and Puerto Rico – including North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida – have enacted comprehensive small cell legislation providing for streamlined and efficient processes for the deployment of small wireless facilities. Enactment of H. 4262 will send a signal that South Carolina welcomes and encourages additional private capital investments.

We strongly and respectfully urge the passage of H. 4262.

Sincerely,

Gerard Keegan
Vice President, State Legislative Affairs

³ “How 5G Can Help Municipalities Become Vibrant Smart Cities,” Accenture Strategy, Jan 12, 2017, https://newsroom.accenture.com/content/1101/files/Accenture_5G-Municipalities-Become-Smart-Cities.pdf, last accessed 1/30/2020.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ See <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-18-133A1.pdf>; last accessed 1/30/2020.



State Small Cell Legislative Activity



Key
Enacted Small Cell Legislation
Pending Small Cell Legislation (as of 1/15/2020)

Puerto Rico





5G Economic Benefits: South Carolina

• Charleston, SC

- Over 1,200 jobs created
- \$112 million in estimated network investment
- Over \$200 million in estimated GDP growth

• Columbia, SC

- 1,246 jobs created
- Over \$100 million in estimated network investment
- \$203 million in estimated GDP growth

• North Charleston, SC

- Over 1,000 jobs created
- \$93 million in estimated network investment
- Over \$170 million in estimated GDP growth

• Mount Pleasant, SC

- Over 800 jobs created
- \$73 million in estimated network investment
- Over \$135 million in estimated GDP growth

• Rock Hill, SC

- Nearly 700 jobs created
- Over \$60 million in estimated network investment
- \$113 million in estimated GDP growth

• Greenville, SC

- 640 jobs created
- Over \$55 million in estimated network investment
- Over \$100 million in estimated GDP growth

Improving Communities Across America,
from small towns to big cities.

✓ \$275B New Wireless Investment



✓ 3 Million New American Jobs



✓ \$500B Contribution to GDP



✓ \$160B in Smart Community
Benefits & Savings

by reducing energy usage, decreasing traffic
congestion and reducing fuel costs



Source: <https://www.acestrategies.com/news/new-research-from-acestrategies-illustrates-highlights-economic-and-social-impact-of-investing-in-5g-infrastructure.htm>