

May 15, 2020

Michael Brown, Executive Director
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Governor's Office of Economic Recovery
808 West Nye Ln.,
Carson City, NV 89703

Re: Guidelines for continuing operations of communications industry in Nevada

Dear Executive Director Brown:

Amid the pandemic we are facing, we thank you for your leadership in helping Nevada reopen our economy. In an effort to assist you in the great responsibility you now have to develop sector-specific plans within the Roadmap to Recovery framework, we want to share with you a few guidelines that may help to inform your work in the communications sector in our state.

As federally designated Critical Infrastructure, communications providers have continued working throughout the pandemic to keep the infrastructure “up and running” that keeps Nevadans connected and enables us all to work and learn from home. Companies of all kinds – whether national and international or local and in-state – have worked together to keep internet traffic flowing, students learning, essential businesses working, and governments and constituents connected and informed. Our employees who keep all of it working – from technicians in the field who repair and restore to the experts in our operations centers who monitor and manage the strength, safety, and capacity of our networks – they are the heroes in our industry. Thanks to them, we are pleased to report that across the country and across the state, our networks have been able to accommodate the significant increase in demand and are prepared to continue serving and supporting our fellow Nevadans as we carefully move ahead on the Roadmap to Reopening.

Of paramount importance to us throughout the pandemic, and especially as our economy begins to reopen, is the health and safety of our employees and our customers. We have and will continue to follow safety precautions and protocols outlined by government leaders as well as additional measures specific to our industry. More specifically, we will follow the requirements and guidance for businesses and employers as outlined in Phase One of Roadmap to Recovery.

We have also gone to great lengths to support our customers in their uncertain financial times. Early on, most communications providers throughout the country signed the FCC's “Keep Americans Connected” pledge, and just recently, extended their commitment to the Pledge through June 30th of this year. As you may know, those who signed the Pledge committed to:

1. not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
2. waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
3. open [their] Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.

And that is not all. Many in our industry have gone above and beyond the Pledge to further help customers stay connected. While many of these efforts are outlined on a clearinghouse website maintained by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, even more is being done to support and assist customers that most often doesn't "make the headlines" or a website or even a tweet. Nonetheless, we derive great satisfaction from knowing communications providers are critical infrastructure that powers solutions that help customers of all kinds stay connected to their lives, their loved ones, and their livelihoods.

In addition to measures we are following for the health and safety of our employees and our customers, we have also outlined below some broad recommendations that will further support and assist our industry going forward to meet the challenges of reopening our economy. A strong, safe, secure, and robust communications infrastructure is absolutely essential to business and government, schools and homes, students and families, customers and constituents. To that end, the recommendations we have provided are based on identified industry needs gathered from our experiences both here in Nevada and across the country. Our combined companies operate in every state, and we have learned much from our industry colleagues that will help us right here in Nevada to meet the challenges and opportunities presented to us as we move ahead along the Roadmap to Recovery.

Recommendations to support, strengthen, and expand critical infrastructure:

- Municipalities and counties should continue to partner with communication providers for all work associated with the expansion, upgrade, and maintenance of critical infrastructure communications networks.
- Municipalities and counties should continue to consider the definitions and guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) regarding critical and essential services and infrastructure.
- State, local governments and school districts should pursue any and all options for drawing down federal assistance funds, grants and subsidies for the deployment of broadband and wireless infrastructure to support internet access in rural and unserved/underserved areas.
- To support internet access for families in rural and low-income areas, State, local governments and school districts should pursue any and all options for drawing down

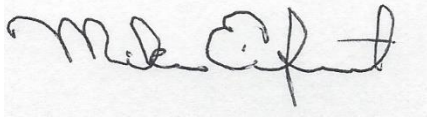
federal assistance funds, grants and subsidies for the purchase and deployment of necessary equipment.

- Communication providers, property owners, and HOAs should work cooperatively to expedite access to properties to place, repair, or augment communications facilities and infrastructure.
- State executive departments and agencies, municipalities, and counties should work collaboratively with communications providers on permitting requirements for urgent construction or upgrades of critical communications infrastructure (including fiber, small cells, ground-based, strand mounted, or cable).
- As feasible, communications providers should prioritize and ensure the connectivity of schools, libraries, hospitals or health care facilities, first responders, courthouses, and other community anchor institutions.
- State executive agencies, municipalities, counties, utilities and communications providers should coordinate efforts to identify critical infrastructure shovel-ready projects that can be implemented by all parties in the near future.
- Municipalities and counties should work with communications providers in order to provide access to roads and public rights of way for new construction or upgrades of any communication infrastructure.
- Municipalities and counties should continue to partner with communications providers to move towards contactless electronic copies of permits at worksites.
- If available, municipalities and counties should allow contactless electronic reviews and approvals for all permitting for communications providers
- To the extent possible, municipalities and counties should work with communication providers to develop contactless processes for excavation and construction permits.
- Municipalities and counties should work with communications providers to allow remote inspections for new construction or upgrades of communications infrastructure.

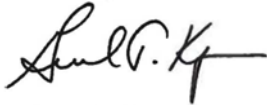
We hope the foregoing is helpful and instructive as you work to reopen the broader Nevada economy. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you further as necessary to finalize an industry specific plan for communications providers. We would be happy to discuss these guidelines and recommendations with you in a more detailed way via a conference call or video meeting. We want to help you and your colleagues as much as possible in our critical role to help Nevada reopen.

Again, thank you for your leadership and tireless efforts to help all of us “Stay Home for Nevada” and now to carefully and successfully navigate our “Nevada United: Roadmap to Recovery.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Eifert".

*Mike Eifert, Executive Director
NV Telecommunications Association*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Keegan".

*Gerard Keegan, Vice President,
State Legislative Affairs
CTIA (the wireless association)*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keri Askew Bailey".

*Keri Askew Bailey, Regional Vice President
State Legislative Affairs – West Region
Charter Communications*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bolognini".

*Michael Bolognini, Vice President
Cox Communications*

Cc: Michelle White, Chief of Staff, Governor Sisolak
Terry Reynolds, Director, Department of Business and Industry