



June 17, 2020

The Honorable Henry LaRosiliere
Mayor, Plano, TX
Chair, Transportation and Communications Committee
United States Conference of Mayors
1520 K Avenue
Plano, TX 75074

RE: Opposition to Resolution 61: Preserving Local Public Rights-of-Way and Regulatory Authority to Most Effectively Deploy 5G Broadband Access and Bridge the Digital Divide during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Mayor LaRosiliere,

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to express concern with Resolution 61 and to provide additional information pertaining to the next generation of wireless networks, commonly referred to as 5G. As your committee considers adopting Resolution 61 pertaining to the future of 5G deployment, it is important to highlight 5G's potential to provide tremendous economic and social benefits to cities and towns across America.

The Coronavirus pandemic ("COVID-19") has had a staggering impact on jobs, industries, and communities across America. COVID-19 has exposed the need for increased connectivity in nearly every sector of our economy. Specifically, this public health emergency has highlighted just how important it is for wireless communications to be reliable, fast and prepared to handle increased demand.

Strong wireless networks enable distance learning for students separated from teachers; telehealth for patients and health care providers; employees to work from home; small businesses to shift online; older adults to stay in touch with family and combat social isolation; public safety personnel to utilize the best resources for their, and our safety; and so much more. As state and local officials continue to take action in response to COVID-19, it is important that our path forward is one that, among other things, supports economic opportunities.

The industry response to this crisis has been unparalleled. CTIA members have stepped up to assist consumers in a number of ways. They have increased the data available to consumers, provided service to schoolchildren without internet at home, and have delivered free cellular service to healthcare workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 response. These efforts, coupled with our long-term investments, makes the industry a critical stakeholder and partner in the future progress within your communities.

5G will reach far beyond our smartphones to enable next-generation, wireless-powered innovation, such as smart factories, telehealth, remote learning and more. It will transform America's major



industries, including finance, healthcare and education. It will support a new wave of smart city innovation, enhancing public safety, transportation and smart grid technology.

In order to accommodate increased wireless demand, today's wireless networks need to be densified and updated in preparation for the rollout of 5G. Small wireless facilities, also referred to as small cells, are being installed on existing structures like utility poles, streetlights and traffic signal poles. A standardized framework that maintains local control, while ensuring access to these facilities and providing outer boundaries on timeliness and cost for government permits in conformance with state (if applicable) and federal law, would help to promote 5G deployment.

The deployment of 5G technology will also serve as an economic catalyst, which Accenture has found will provide tremendous economic benefits within your communities. 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.¹ In the Chair's home city of Plano, TX, specifically, 5G deployment may create nearly 2700 jobs and increase GDP by over \$435 million.

In closing, CTIA respectfully opposes Resolution 61 and urges its rejection. We encourage the members of the Transportation and Communications Committee, and the entire United States Conference of Mayors as a whole, to take proactive steps to facilitate the deployment of 5G technology within their own communities. Resolution 61 is not a proactive step. We look forward to continue working in partnership with mayors and local officials across America to facilitate the deployment of 5G.

Sincerely,

Bethanne Cooley
Assistant Vice President, State Legislative Affairs

¹ "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 6/12/2020.