



**Testimony of**

**Arturo Chang  
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**Before the**

**Consumer Affairs Committee  
The Pennsylvania House of Representatives – 2018 Regular Session  
Room B31, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA**

**Thursday, August 9, 2018**

Chairman Godshall, Chairman Caltagirone, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this important hearing and for the opportunity to testify on Pennsylvania House Bill 2564, P.N 3863, known as the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. My name is Arturo Chang and I am the State Government Affairs Counsel of the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA), the principal national trade association representing the companies that build, design, own, and manage wireless facilities in the U.S. and throughout the world. Our members include wireless carriers, infrastructure providers, and professional consulting firms that collectively own and operate more than 135,000 telecommunications facilities across the nation. WIA works to support the responsible and sustainable deployment of wireless infrastructure needed to deliver wireless services to all citizens and communities. WIA commends the efforts of Representative Farry and other members of the General Assembly for introducing a bill that will provide a pathway towards expedited 5G deployment in the Commonwealth.

It is undisputed that there is an increasing demand for wireless services. One report<sup>1</sup> indicates that global mobile data traffic grew 63 percent in 2016, and global mobile data traffic is expected to increase seven-fold between 2016 and 2021. These metrics should not come as a surprise; wireless services already play a substantial role in our everyday life giving us access to services such as efficient navigation while driving and allowing us to stay connected with our family and friends. Small cell technology will also enable a variety of services such as increased access to telehealth medicine, public safety response, autonomous vehicles, and expanded

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/collateral/service-provider/visual-networking-index-vni/mobile-white-paper-c11-520862.pdf>.



educational opportunities. These 5G services, which are fueled by small cell technology, can only be as good as the infrastructure on which it is deployed and will involve up to 100 times more antenna locations than 3G or 4G. Fully realizing the economic growth and international competitiveness of 5G, depends on how efficiently 5G infrastructure will be deployed. Building the networks of tomorrow requires sound policies from all levels of government today, and twenty-one states including Ohio and Delaware have enacted legislation similar to HB 2564 recognizing that small cells provide a unique opportunity to densify networks, provide additional coverage, and improve wireless transmissions.

WIA supports the Pennsylvania bill with amendment. Although we agree with the general framework and concepts of the bill, we have concerns about section 3 subsection(e)(2), located on page 8, lines 10 through 16, that introduces the concept of “height limit waivers.” As you may be aware, one of the premises of HB 2564 is to streamline the deployment of utility poles up to fifty feet in the public Right-of-Way for small cell needs. In our view, any application for a proposed structure above fifty feet should be subject to the regular zoning process of that jurisdiction. Our members work closely with cities and communities around the country, and we strongly believe it is important that localities retain oversight authority for taller structures. Equally noteworthy, this policy is consistent with small cell bills enacted by the other twenty-one other states previously mentioned. For those reasons, WIA respectfully submits for your consideration amendment language that would address this small but important section. We believe this amendment strikes a good balance in enabling communities to maintain local control and decision making, while also providing the industry with a transparent and orderly set of standards to follow in support of improved as well as expanded service.

Small cell deployment will bring many benefits to the Commonwealth including expanded job opportunities and educational benefits, enhanced coverage, and heightened public safety response. WIA is also a member of the Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G, a business and technology advocacy group that represents over 20 businesses, industries, trade associations and local governments from across Pennsylvania. The Partnership aims to educate and promote the deployment of 5G technology infrastructure. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the Committee to make additional progress on this piece of legislation.

Thank you again, Chairman Godshall, Chairman Caltagirone and committee members for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify. I would be glad to answer any questions.

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**Wireless Infrastructure  
Association Amendment to  
HB 2564 (Printer 3863 -  
20180HB2564PN3863)**

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Amend Bill, page 8, lines 10 through 16, by striking out all of said line

10           ~~(2) Subject to the provisions of this act, a wireless~~  
11 ~~provider shall have the right to collocate and install,~~  
12 ~~modify or replace a utility pole that exceeds these height~~  
13 ~~limits along, across and under the right of way by including~~  
14 ~~a height limit waiver request in the application. Height~~  
15 ~~limit waivers shall be processed under section 4 and on a~~  
16 ~~nondiscriminatory basis.~~