



May 2, 2017

Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Support House Bill 687 – “Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act”

Dear Governor Scott,

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am writing in support of House Bill 687, the “Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act.” The people of Florida continue to demand – at increasing levels – access to wireless products and services. This is demonstrated by the fact the number of wireless subscribers in Florida has grown 17% since 2010, amounting to over 20.2 million subscribers.¹ In fact, 99% of Floridians use wireless.² These demands from the wireless industry’s customers – your constituents – require that wireless networks be updated today and readied for the next generation of wireless networks. House Bill 687 is a needed mechanism to accommodate consumer demands and help to realize the future.

Small wireless facilities – also known as small cells – are being widely deployed to accommodate this increased demand. Small cells are wireless antennas, typically no more than six cubic feet in volume, and associated equipment, generally less than twenty-eight cubic feet, that are being installed on existing structures like utility poles, street lights and traffic signal poles. This global trend is sweeping the country. More than 250,000 small cells are expected to be installed over the next few years in the United States, nearly the number of traditional “macro” cell sites built over the last 30 years.

Small cells enhance capacity on existing 4G LTE wireless networks by efficiently using scarce spectrum, and they will be required for the higher-frequency spectrum 5G networks will depend on. The benefits provided by 5G are astounding. 5G networks will provide increased capacity to accommodate growing consumer demands and will

¹ FCC, Voice Telephone Services Report: Status as of June 2015, August 2016, at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireline-competition/voice-telephone-services-report>, last accessed 5/1/2017.

² U.S. Census, Population Estimates, at <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demo/popest/state-total.html>, last accessed 5/1/2017.



connect 100 times more devices. Imagine a future where nearly everything is connected to ubiquitous wireless networks at speeds up to 100 times faster than today. Imagine communities that are smarter and more connected. Entire sectors, from public safety to transportation, will be transformed.

In fact, Accenture recently published a study noting that 5G wireless networks could create as many as three million jobs and boost the U.S. GDP by nearly \$500 billion over the next seven years.³ More specifically, Florida communities – from small towns to big cities – that embrace the next-generation of wireless connectivity will realize significant economic benefits. For instance, 5G deployment in a community like Miami may create over 4,000 jobs and increase GDP by \$655 million, and a community like Orange City may create over 100 jobs and increase GDP by \$17 million.⁴

Furthermore, a report recently published by Deloitte illustrates how other industries are leveraging today's wireless platform for innovation and growth – and how increased wireless deployment will spur even more advancements in these key economic sectors⁵:

- **Energy.** Wireless-enabled smart grids could create \$1.8 trillion for the U.S. economy—saving consumers hundreds of dollars per year.
- **Health.** Wireless devices could create \$305 billion in annual health system savings from decreased costs and mortality due to chronic illnesses.
- **Public Safety.** Improvements made by wireless connectivity can save lives and reduce crime. A one-minute improvement in emergency response time translates to a reduction of 8% in mortality.
- **Transportation.** Wireless powered self-driving cars could reduce emissions by 40-90%, travel times by nearly 40% and delays by 20% – and translate to \$447 billion per year in savings, and, more important, 21,700 lives saved.

That's the promise of the next-generation of wireless technology. America needs to lead in its deployment.

³ "How 5G Can Help Municipalities Become Vibrant Smart Cities," Accenture Strategy, Jan 12, 2017. These estimates are based on expected benefits for the United States from next generation wireless networks and some smart city technologies. They are based on per capita application of the estimated national benefits to individual cities (e.g., the number of construction jobs are national averages assigned on a per-capita basis), and may vary depending on the individual city.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Deloitte, "Wireless Connectivity Fuels Industry Growth and Innovation in Energy, Health, Public Safety, and Transportation," http://www.ctia.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/deloitte_20170119.pdf, last accessed 5/1/2017.



House Bill 687 helps to remove barriers to efficient deployment of small cell wireless infrastructure by streamlining processes and imposing reasonable rates and fees. Furthermore, it is important to note the legislation places no limitations on localities' ability to deny permits based on building, safety or electrical codes or standards. There is no removal of localities' jurisdiction in these areas.

In closing, since 2010, wireless providers have invested more than \$177 billion to improve their coverage and capacity to better serve Americans, with \$32 billion invested in 2015 alone.⁶ As stated above, more than 250,000 small cells are expected to be installed over the next few years in the United States. The regulatory and land use environment must allow for capital to be efficiently spent as capital tends to flow to places that are ready for investment. House Bill 687 will send a signal that Florida is ready for investment.

For all the reasons described herein, CTIA strongly urges your signature on House Bill 687.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hastings
Senior Vice President, External & State Affairs
CTIA

⁶ CTIA's Wireless Industry Summary Report, Year-End 2015 Results, 2015, <http://www.ctia.org/industry-data/ctia-annual-wireless-industry-survey>, last accessed 5/1/2017.