

October 3, 2018

The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Thune and Senator Schatz,

On behalf of a diverse group of associations, we write to express our support for S. 3157, Streamlining The Rapid Evolution And Modernization of Leading-edge Infrastructure Necessary to Enhance Small Cell Deployment (the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment) Act.

This balanced and forward-looking bipartisan legislation will modernize wireless infrastructure regulations for next-generation 5G wireless networks, unlocking significant consumer and economic benefits. 5G networks will be up to 100 times faster than 4G, five times more responsive, and able to support 100 times more devices. These capabilities make 5G key to enabling the potential of the Internet of Things and supporting consumer demand for all things wireless.

For example, the deployment of 5G networks across the country will enable a myriad of new and advanced telehealth capabilities and applications. These advancements will result in real-time disease diagnosis, population analytics, patient outcomes, and remote access capabilities – all leading to more efficient, higher quality technology-enabled care. 5G is poised to transform the transportation sector through smart buses, trains, and cars that cut travel times and emissions, while improving access to transportation options and keeping Americans safe while on the road. 5G will also improve agricultural productivity by employing 5G-powered autonomous vehicles for field tasks, sensors to predict maintenance needs for farming equipment, augmented reality for learning purposes, and sensors, tracking and data for efficient logistics.

To make these 5G-powered advancements a reality, hundreds of thousands of small cells will need to be deployed in the next few years. Small cell deployments will escalate rapidly – from roughly 13,000 deployed in 2017 to over 800,000 deployed by 2026, according to Accenture. These small cells can be installed in as little as an hour or two, but under rules designed decades ago for 200-foot cell towers, it can take more than a year to get the necessary government approvals. We applaud the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act for updating decades-old rules to reflect this new technology by setting reasonable timeframes for localities to act on siting applications, eliminating the need for costly and time-consuming litigation if an application has not been processed in that time frame, and clarifying that siting fees for access to public property are reasonable and based on actual costs.

**Winning the Global Race to 5G.** Today, there is a global race for 5G leadership and superiority, with China, South Korea, and other countries focusing on the infrastructure and spectrum policies to ensure they lead the world in this technology. The U.S. won the race to 4G, which boosted the U.S. economy by nearly \$100 billion and sparked an 84 percent increase in wireless-related jobs.

Being first to 5G will also have major economic benefits, from keeping the next generation of developers focused on innovation for and in the U.S., to creating new 5G jobs, to adding billions of dollars in investment to the U.S. GDP.

**Preserving Local Authority.** The STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act appropriately balances the need to modernize the rules with the rights of state and local governments. The bill creates reasonable timeframes for acting on siting requests, but retains local authority to regulate structural engineering standards, safety requirements, and aesthetic or concealment requirements. The bill also provides small municipalities additional time to process applications, recognizing that that smaller entities may need more flexibility. Finally, the bill allows a one-time FCC waiver of the timelines for state and local governments should additional time be needed.

**Driving Economic Growth and Innovation.** With new rules for new 5G networks, the wireless industry will invest \$275 billion to build out 5G networks, generating \$500 billion in economic growth and three million new American jobs. Underscoring the economic impact of reforms like the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act, a recent study found that reducing the current timelines for 5G wireless infrastructure by 12 months would unleash an additional \$100 billion to the U.S. economy<sup>1</sup>. Not only will 5G networks transform our economy, but 5G networks will prompt significant innovation and advancements for every sector including consumer tech, transportation, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. The STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act will help make that investment and future innovations a reality by fostering the growth of 5G right here in the U.S. We need to ensure that tomorrow's advancements in healthcare, transportation, energy, and various other industries are not exported overseas by ceding 5G leadership to other countries.

We support the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act that will help ensure the U.S. leads the world in 5G and spur economic growth in industries of the future and in communities of all sizes across the country. Thank you for your bipartisan leadership and we look forward to working with you to advance and pass this important bill.

Sincerely,



<sup>1</sup> Accelerating Future Economic Value From the Wireless Industry, Accenture, July 19, 2018 at <https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Accenture-Strategy-Wireless-5G-Accelerating-Economic-Value-POV-July-2018.pdf>



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