



BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 478
January 30, 2018

Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Keith Lake and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 478, which streamlines the process associated with installing and maintaining small cell facilities in the municipal right-of-way here in Ohio.

In December of 2016, legislation containing a similar process to what is contained in HB 478 was passed by the Ohio General Assembly. At the time, the Ohio Chamber voiced our support for many of the provisions of SB 331, including its small cell technology provisions. With the enactment of SB 331, Ohio was one of the first states to pass a small cell related bill.

Unfortunately, SB 331 and its small cell provisions are now tied up in court, and 11 other states have passed their own bills to facilitate the deployment of advanced wireless technology. As a result, Ohio now runs the risk of falling behind other states in encouraging providers to deploy small cells and invest in strengthening their networks.

Access to fast, reliable communications networks is critical to businesses in today's economy and small cell technology ensures we can continue to enjoy the wireless capability on which businesses have come to rely. We ask you to support this legislation. Thank you.