



Date: March 13, 2018

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee

From: Theodore J. Staton, City Manager
City of Upper Arlington

Re: **Consideration of House Bill 478**

I respectfully wish to submit written testimony to the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee, on behalf of the City of Upper Arlington, urging you to adopt House Bill 478, the small cell infrastructure legislation.

House Bill 478 is the result of an impressive collaborative effort of more than 90 Ohio municipalities and the telecom industry to replace an amendment in Senate Bill 331, passed by the Ohio Legislature in December of 2016. The proposed legislation was carefully crafted to provide the best solution for municipalities and the industry, while being careful not to create additional burdens or impacts for other users of the public right-of-way. House Bill 478 was carefully considered and negotiated to provide a predictable process for wireless providers of small cell service in Ohio, while protecting community aesthetics.

House Bill 478 was passed by the House with a vote of 76-15 on February 14, 2018. It has the support of the Ohio Municipal League, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, which represents 19 cities, as well as many cities around the State.

We encourage your support of House Bill 478 because it is in the best interests of all Ohio municipalities to promote the rapid deployment and implementation of new technologies and innovative services that improve quality of life for our residents and a competitive environment for our businesses. The legislation, as written and amended, provides the means for a rapid and orderly deployment of these technologies, respecting the operational processes and capacities of municipalities, while providing the predictability desired by the industry. It respects and protects the billions of dollars of investment taxpayers have made in our local infrastructure, and it respects the character of our communities we all have worked so hard to achieve.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the many community leaders and industry representatives that put forth a good faith effort that has successfully resulted in the bill that is before you today. Together, we can find ways to move our State, our communities and Ohio's industries forward in mutually beneficial ways.

Thank you for your consideration.



Theodore J. Staton
City Manager, City of Upper Arlington

C: Senator Stephanie Kunze