



BEFORE THE SENATE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 478  
March 15, 2018

Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Public Utilities 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 14 other states have passed legislation 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.

HB 478 will ensure Ohio remains competitive with these other states and spur immediate, widespread investment in this technology throughout the state. In addition, the House made a number of changes at the request of other industries or utilities besides wireless that might have been inadvertently impacted by the as-introduced version of this bill. While getting the small cell provisions rights is important, the Ohio Chamber certainly appreciates the municipalities' and the sponsors' willingness to address these other concerns, which are reflected in the version of the bill pending before you now.

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. On behalf of the Ohio Chamber, I ask you to support this legislation. Thank you.