



OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE

March 14, 2018

Senator Bill Beagle, Chair
Senate Public Utilities Committee
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Beagle:

On behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities, I write to express support for House Bill 478, as passed by the House.

We support this legislation because our mayors know how integral the next generation of wireless technology is to creating jobs and driving regional and statewide economic success. This legislation will help to ensure that Ohio's digital infrastructure continues to keep pace with innovation and creates additional opportunities to foster economic growth in our cities.

Not only does this advance much-needed wireless technology across Ohio, it also ensures predictability for cities and wireless providers alike. It establishes tools for local governments to retain control of location, construction and design for small cells. It also establishes competitive rules that apply to both cable operators and wireless service providers for the operation of small-cell facilities.

Lastly, the Ohio Mayors Alliance was encouraged by the consensus-driven process used in drafting HB 478, which will hopefully become a model for future bills that impact local governance issues. This legislation resulted from over 90 municipalities giving meaningful input – including several Ohio Mayors Alliance members – to develop its language.

The inclusive process for drafting HB 478 was very different from the first attempt at this legislation, which was added into an unrelated bill (SB 331) with little opportunity for meaningful input. The more deliberative approach with HB 478 allowed the various stakeholders an opportunity to work through their differences in a productive way.

For these reasons, we encourage passage of HB 478. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Keary McCarthy, Executive Director
Ohio Mayors Alliance