



December 9, 2019

Chairman Steve Wilson
Vice Chairman Rob McColley
Ranking Member Sandra Williams
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Ohio General Assembly

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 – Illegal Robocalls

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

As leading providers of voice services, members of the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association (OCTA) have been at the forefront of industry efforts to protect consumers from illegal robocalls. In many cases, OCTA members have voluntarily implemented measures to combat this difficult problem, while also supporting efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress to stem the tide of these calls. For example, two OCTA members recently partnered with Attorneys General from across the country, including Ohio, and voluntarily agreed to abide by strong anti-robocalling principles. We are pleased, therefore, that the Ohio General Assembly wishes to motivate federal action and we respectfully encourage you to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 (SCR 6).

With the FCC and Congress both considering further action to combat illegal robocalls, SCR 6 is both timely and relevant. As you may know, in June 2019, the FCC expanded call blocking to protect consumers from unlawful and unwanted calls and sought comment on whether to mandate caller ID authentication. Additionally, both the US House and US Senate have passed anti-robocall bills and just agreed in principle on the text of new legislation that would require caller ID authentication, allow call blocking, and strengthen FCC enforcement.

We strongly believe federal action represents the best approach to combat illegal robocalls and protect consumers in a consistent manner. Support from Ohio urging federal action could help get federal legislation passed, while also ensuring that the many voice providers with customers in multiple states have just one set of rules with which they must comply.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Stephen Buehrer, Executive Director
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association

About the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association

The OCTA is a trade association representing Ohio's cable television operators, programmers, and suppliers and their more than 8,500 Ohio employees. Through its member companies, the OCTA serves the vast majority of the almost 3 million cable households in the state, providing television, telephone (including wireless), and high-speed internet access. Together, Ohio cable operators have an \$11.7 billion impact on Ohio's economy, pay over \$450 million in wages to Ohioans, contribute more than \$200 million annually in taxes and fees, and have invested over \$970 million in updating equipment and technology in the past three years.