



Wireless
Infrastructure
Association

October 14, 2025

Noah Jackson
Legislative Clerk
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Please see my answers to the submitted Questions for the Record for the September 18 “Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting” hearing below.

The Honorable August Pfluger

In the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Congress authorized a pipeline of 800 MHz of spectrum for commercial use. Would wireless permitting reform enhance the value of that spectrum when it comes to auction?

Yes, it would. WIA commissioned a report from the Brattle Group in February of this year to empirically evaluate the economic value of permitting reform on spectrum auctions, which I have attached for the record as well. In the report, Brattle found that the certainty provided by a consistent permitting framework increased the value of spectrum at auction by at least 9.8%. The report found that if bidders expect a 6-month delay, due to permitting or other issues, in being able to deploy the spectrum they purchase, revenue from an auction expected to raise \$50 billion would in reality raise nearly \$1.4 billion lower than it would have without delays. Certainty in wireless permitting is essential to both ensuring spectrum auctions raise the revenues Congress expects and, perhaps more importantly, enabling American consumers to take advantage of the spectrum’s capabilities as soon as possible.

The Honorable Tom Kean, Jr.

In your testimony, you discussed the need for regulations that are conducive to an effective partnership with local governments. Can you speak to how this relationship with local governments has shifted over time as technological needs and capabilities have evolved? Have local views on broadband installations changed?

By and large, local governments have been a great partner to wireless infrastructure providers and carriers. Local governments are aware of the importance of connectivity for their communities and often work with WIA’s members to ensure their communities get the coverage and capacity they need. Occasionally, we do run into situations where the approval process at the state and local levels can be a source of delays, often due to unclear timelines and requirements or because there are redundancies in their process. The result is those communities are often not served, lack needed capacity, or are served only after significant delay. Codifying the FCC reforms



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and taking steps to create a consistent, nationwide permitting framework like this legislation seeks to do will help establish clear rules of the road that ensure no community is left behind. Importantly, this legislation sets a nationwide baseline for how these jurisdictions should review applications to build communications networks. WIA and its members have had great success in working with states and localities to develop rules that respect the important role of local review while ensuring infrastructure can be timely deployed. The legislation being considered here will be the most impactful for jurisdictions that do not have these rules already to ensure government and industry have clear expectations about what is required before a project is even proposed.

One of the biggest shifts in the needs and capabilities of wireless networks is the proliferation of the neutral host model which has steadily raised in popularity for network providers since the early days of 4G. Deploying a single piece of vertical infrastructure (i.e. cell tower) that can accommodate multiple service providers reduces the visual and environmental impact of these networks while freeing up critical capital that providers have been able to invest back in their networks, expanding their reach and improving service. In fact, the prevalence of the neutral host model was a key contributor to enabling 5G networks being deployed across the country twice as quickly as the 4G revolution. The legislation considered here recognizes this major shift and ensures that applications to make modifications on the existing infrastructure, like attaching new or updated equipment, are not subject to the same lengthy review as building a new tower.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Halley", written in a cursive style.

Patrick Halley
President and CEO