



March 31, 2023

Chair Ann Cummings  
Vice Chair Mark A. MacDonald  
Vermont Senate Committee on Finance

***Verizon Testimony in Support of H.110, An act relating to extending the sunset under 30 V.S.A. § 248a***

Chair Cummings, Vice Chair MacDonald & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Stephanie Lee, director of State and Local Government Affairs for Verizon in New England. On behalf of Verizon, I would like to express support for H.110, "An act relating to extending the sunset under 30 V.S.A. § 248a."

Connectivity and mobility provided by wireless services are in high demand in Vermont, and section 248a provides an effective framework for the deployment of wireless facilities across the state. Verizon therefore supports H.110, which would extend the current sunset of section 248a.

Section 248a provides a streamlined process that enables wireless providers to expand network in areas where there is demand for more coverage or capacity. It protects the role of the Public Utility Commission's process for issuing a "certificate of public good" and its ability to weigh potential community impacts while preserving the ability for the efficient siting of wireless infrastructure.

The process not only provides a framework that provides predictability for applicants and communities, but for Vermonters who rely on wireless services to connect with public safety, work, school, healthcare and family and friends.

Verizon invests millions of dollars to improve the quality and coverage of our wireless network for consumers in Vermont. With an increased focus on bridging the digital divide in unserved and underserved communities, Verizon is increasing its investments in wireless facilities to bring service to more consumers in Vermont over the next few years.

As we look toward the future, we would also ask the Committee to consider extending the Section 248a sunset beyond three years. Companies such as Verizon take a long-range view of our network requirements and an extension would provide more certainty in the planning and budgeting of wireless sites.

Our ultimate goal is to reach more consumers as quickly as possible with the fast, reliable service they desire. Thank you for the opportunity testify in support for H. 110.

Regards,

*Stephanie Lee*

Director – State and Local Government Affairs/New England