



**Testimony of
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CTIA**

**In Support of
Vermont H 110**

**Before the
Vermont Senate Committee on Finance**

March 31, 2023

Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee, on behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am testifying in support of House Bill 110 related to siting of telecommunications facilities.

Improved connectivity and access to wireless products and services are important issues for Vermonters. Demand on mobile networks continues to skyrocket. U.S. wireless carrier networks are supporting more data traffic today than they did from 2010 through 2017 combined.¹ In fact, the 11.2 trillion megabytes' (MBs) increase in data use since last year alone is 1.5 trillion MBs more than consumers used in all of 2015. This growth requires that wireless networks be updated to meet the existing demand for wireless services. This also directly affects the state's economy – the [Boston Consulting Group \(BCG\)](#) estimates that over the next decade, 5G will contribute \$1.6 billion and create over 4,000 jobs in Vermont.²

Vermont has a workable framework for the deployment of wireless facilities via *30 V.S.A. § 248a*. Effective investment and deployment of wireless infrastructure relies on regulatory clarity for both communities and applicants, given that our members develop their budgets 18 to 36 months in advance. This predictability and balance keeps the door open to deploy and upgrade

¹ CTIA 2022 Annual Survey Highlights, available at: <https://www.ctia.org/news/2022-annual-survey-highlights>, last accessed Jan. 25, 2023.

² Boston Consulting Group Report, "5G Promises Massive Job and GDP Growth in the US," <https://www.ctia.org/the-wireless-industry/the-5g-economy/map/states/Vermont/overall>, February 2, 2021.



infrastructure, improve network reliability and drive economic growth. *Section 248a* in its current form achieves that clarity and balance and should remain in place.

For these reasons, CTIA strongly supports H.110, which would extend the current “Sunset of Commission authority” for *Section 248a* from 2023 to 2026. Vermont’s current statute protects the role and process of the Public Utility Commission 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. CTIA also recommends the Committee consider either extending the sunset period to a length greater than three years or eliminating it altogether. This will ensure greater certainty for all parties that use the *Section 248a* process.

Given the exploding demand for more wireless services in Vermont, we deeply appreciate the state’s commitment to establishing a common-sense framework for wireless infrastructure deployment. *Section 248a* in its current form benefits the state’s economy by ensuring Vermonters have better access to wireless services. We strongly support any efforts at preserving it.

For the reasons outlined herein, we respectfully support H. 110.