



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Proponent Testimony of Charter Communications Operating, LLC
In Favor of HB 2061 – Critical Infrastructure Protections

January 28, 2025

Presented by:
Dayton Murty, Senior Manager of State Government Affairs

Honorable Chairman Humphries, Vice Chair Williams, and Ranking Member Osman:

It is my honor to appear before you on behalf of Charter Communications. We do business in Kansas under the brand name “Spectrum,” and serve 118,000 Kansas customers in 25 communities. We employ over 850 Kansans and invested over \$37 million in private capital last year to connect an additional 3,000 Kansans to the rest of the world through internet, television, and voice services.

Charter supports classifying broadband and communications cables and wires, both aboveground and belowground, as critical infrastructure facilities for the purpose of criminal damage to a critical infrastructure facility in Kansas, thereby affording them the same protections as other critical infrastructure in the state.

We all know that broadband internet access is critical to daily life. Intentionally and maliciously damaging broadband cables and wires, often fiber optic lines, can create the same service interruptions as damaging other broadband infrastructure like telecommunications power supplies and headends which are already protected under the law.

A recent study highlights the scope of this problem (https://www.ncta.com/sites/default/files/2024-11/NCTA_Vandalism_2024_Report_final.pdf), and we have experienced several recent incidents in Kansas that have impacted our customers.

By making this small change we can help defend our critical infrastructure and limit service outages for Kansans. For these reasons, we support HB 2061 and would urge you to recommend the bill favorable for passage to the House.

Thank you, Ms. Chairman and members of the Committee, for your consideration of our request and HB 2061.