

February 4, 2016

Senator Rob Olson
Chairman
Kansas Senate Committee on Utilities

Re: SB 401: An act concerning telecommunications; relating to wireless communications, deployment of equipment; concerning municipalities and state entities.

Dear Chairman Olson and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today in support of SB 401, an act concerning the deployment of wireless communications equipment.

There have been extraordinary changes in the communications market. A little over fifteen years ago, "communications" meant "voice." Today, communications is anything and everything enabled by highly competitive broadband and wireless services.

These dramatic statistics help illustrate the story:

- From 2007 to 2014, mobile data traffic on our network increased 100,000%.ⁱ
- Since 2000, high-speed Internet subscriptions in Kansas have risen more than 3,400%.ⁱⁱ
- Today, there are nearly as many wireless subscriptions in Kansas as there are people in the state.

The development and expansion of wireless networks have had an immensely positive impact on Kansas consumers and communities, while also driving massive investment and job growth. Consumer and business demand for wireless services has directed where companies are – and should be – investing.

- Between 2005 and 2014 capital spending in the wireless industry exceeded \$231 billionⁱⁱⁱ; between 2011 and 2014, the U.S. added more than 3.2 million wireless jobs.^{iv}
- From 2012 through 2014, AT&T invested nearly \$725 million in its Kansas wireless and wireline network, creating jobs, fueling economic growth and bringing advanced services to our customers.^v
- A 2011 report by Deloitte projects that every \$1 billion invested in mobile wireless broadband creates 15,000 jobs.

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-8-16

ATTACHMENT # 3

Increasingly, much of the technology that Kansas consumers and businesses need and use in their everyday lives requires reliable mobile network infrastructure. Wireless-enabled products and devices allow access to applications like remote health monitoring and distance learning. Our cities are now opting to utilize wireless technology and the Internet of Things to help them operate more effectively and efficiently. For today's modern farm, high-speed wireless connectivity can be as important of a tool as a tractor. Wireless services are giving Kansas consumers new choices to connect, to communicate, and to access information and entertainment. And there's no limit to what's possible. Connectivity empowers everyone to innovate, grow, create and thrive.

In order to keep pace with this increasing demand, Kansas needs an updated framework to manage wireless deployment. SB 401 provides a straightforward system that establishes realistic timelines, processes, and fee structures to help facilitate the deployment of wireless infrastructure. Enacting this legislation will help simplify and streamline the cell siting process so that advanced wireless services can be brought more quickly to people and businesses in Kansas.

Fast, secure and mobile connectivity to everything on the Internet – everywhere, at every moment and on every device – is what drives us at AT&T. It is why we build wireless and wired networks engineered to handle massive volumes. And the more capacity and speed we build into our networks, the more intensively and creatively our customers use them.

At AT&T, we strive to meet the needs of our customers today, while preparing to deliver the innovative technologies they'll want and need tomorrow. Each year, we invest billions of dollars to enhance our wireless and wireline networks so that we can continue to deliver the latest technologies, products and services that our customers demand.

Your support of SB 401 will help ensure that Kansans continue to reap the benefits of advanced wireless networks. We respectfully encourage your swift passage of this legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Scott,
President
AT&T Kansas