Dear FCC June 15, 2017

I represent Heritage Ohio; we are both the coordinating agency for the Ohio Main Street Program as well as the historic preservation organization for the state of Ohio. Our mission is helping people to save the places that matter build community live better.

I am writing to weigh in on SB331, which was passed by the legislature on December 7, 2016, without any public discussion or input, and signed into law on December 19th by being attached to a pet store dog sales bill.

We are concerned about the proposed cell towers aesthetic impact on historic properties and districts. Many of our Ohio communities have found capitalizing upon their historic integrity is the ticket to revitalization. Many communities, though not all, have designated their downtowns on the National Register of Historic places to assure the protection of these properties and districts. Many have additionally added local design review ordinances to add yet another layer of protection.

Please do not reduce the historic district buffer for collocations from 250’ to 50’

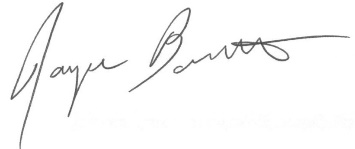
Please do not exclude from 106 Review Collocations that undergo local design review (which could be a problem for Boards with little Historic Preservation or telecommunication review experience)

Please do not expand Right of Way Exclusions to Historic Districts – which basically means any collocation within the Right of Way would be exempt from 106 review even if inside a historic district.

That cell towners can be located in our downtowns without any local oversight is ridiculous. People and businesses want an opportunity to weigh-in through local hearings on cell tower placement when placement is located in their immediate neighborhood. To have that right taken away from Ohio citizens is wrong. The placement of these cell towers without review or regard is a threat to the economic prosperity of the downtown environments so many of our towns have invested in bringing back.

We would prefer that the law be a more thoughtful and transparent discussion between all interested parties, especially municipalities, before enacting any further cellular provider provisions in state law.

Sincerely,



Joyce Barrett  
Executive Director  
Heritage Ohio