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| **Terry Alexander**  District No. 59 –Darlington &  Florence Counties  1646 Harris Court  Florence, SC 29501  **Committees:**  Education and Public Works  Regulations and Administrative  Procedures  SC Education Oversight  **Subcommittees:**  Higher Education  Public Safety  Business, Commerce and Administrative | HouSealColorlarge.jpg  House of Representatives  State of South Carolina | 314-C Blatt Building  Columbia, SC 29201  Tel. (803) 734-3004 |

August 7, 2018

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment (WT Docket No. 17-79)**

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, I’m always thinking about the future of the community I’m honored to serve and what can be done to improve its outlook. A particular area of interest of mine is the future of wireless connectivity and ensuring outdated infrastructure policies are updated now so that my region and others are ready for 5G, the next generation of wireless.

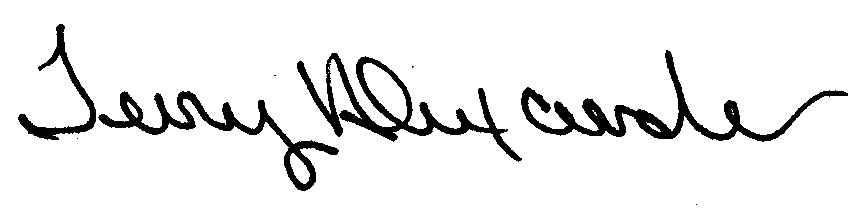
5G will have tremendous implications for everyone. The speed and strength of the network will allow residents, businesses, and visitors alike to benefit from nearly instantaneous connections while enabling innovative new technologies, like autonomous cars, smart cities, and telehealth, to come to fruition in a big way.

But to experience the benefits of this next generation of wireless and the economic boost that will accompagny it, policymakers at all levels of government must streamline complex siting stipulations that will otherwise slow down 5G buildout for small cells in particular. As you well know, small cells will be instrumental to the operation of 5G, so the goal should be to speed up the process to get them out; not slow it down.

It’s communities like mine that feel the impact of the latter scenario the most. That’s because if the investment that goes into deploying 5G on the front end is consumed by big, urban areas, it will take longer for it to flow outwards in the direction of places like Florence.

I appreciate the FCC’s efforts to date in identifying opportunities to streamline 5G rollout and urge you to do more to ensure a more level playing field across the country. The vitality of communities like ours hinges on coordination between policymakers across all levels of government to make the U.S. 5G-ready.

Sincerely,



Terry Alexander

Enclosure: Letter to the editor

[**LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Digital infrastructure needs a look**](https://www.scnow.com/opinion/letters/article_4a9953b2-8d2b-11e8-b7c0-9714a3bb85e5.html)

It’s summer, and as more folks go on vacation, they’re reminded of infrastructure deficiencies. While that thought conjures up images of roads and bridges in need of repair, we should think broader.

Like roads and bridges, digital infrastructure requires our attention. We need to modernize it to improve quality of life and economic opportunity for residents, businesses and visitors.

Now is an important time as ever as next-generation networks – also known as 5G – will start to “turn on” in select markets later this year. 5G is not just going to be faster and better than what we have today, but it will be built to support the “next-generation” technologies that are just starting to seem realistic in a big way, such as autonomous cars, smart cities and telehealth.

For all of this to come to fruition, the right infrastructure must be in place. It’s not as simple as just laying fiber or putting a small cell antenna on a light pole. There are regulations to follow – and for good reason. However, outdated regulations that amount to excessive fees, stacks of papers and long wait times could make us wait longer for 5G. That’s not an outcome we want – especially if we get held up because resources were held up elsewhere.

All levels of government can re-evaluate their current processes and find places to streamline. The Federal Communications Commission has shown leadership, but more needs to be done. With smart policy choices, communities throughout South Carolina can reap the benefits of 5G.

S.C. REP. TERRY ALEXANDER

Florence