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August 23, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84; Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure, WT Docket No. 16-421

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Mayor and Council of Rockville (the "City") thanks you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the 67,000 residents of the City of Rockville. The City is excited about the potential for fifth generation wireless services (5G) to transform mobile technology, but it is also mindful of our responsibility to manage our rights-of-way, and preserve our residents' quality of life.

The City strongly supports municipal authority to maintain local control over the siting and installation of small cellular towers and antennas, and the ability to impose reasonable fees for permit review and the rental of space in a municipal right-of-way. The City is opposed to the Commission's consideration of significant broadband deployment preemptions.

As the local legislative body, the Mayor and Council is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of our residents. The City objects to any rules that usurp local authority to manage the public rights-of-way, including rules that would preempt localized decisions as to the location of small cell infrastructure and aesthetic concerns. The City works cooperatively with all gas, electric, water, cable, and telecommunications providers. The City has entered into 11 rights-of-way use agreements and sets parameters with providers. In FY17, the City issued 275 utility permits for work in our right-of-way, and approved 299 permits in FY18.

Industry proposals for fee caps and "deemed granted" remedies and the mandated access to rights-of-way, municipal poles, and other public property by small cell providers are unreasonable. "Deemed granted" remedies are unreasonable because municipalities must consider complex and site-specific factors when evaluating requests to install infrastructure in the public rights-of-way. The factors include, but are not limited to, aesthetics; space constraints; damage to other utilities and public infrastructure; ADA compliance; and other site-specific issues that are unique to each request.

Further, fee caps for the review of permit applications or the rental of and attachment to public infrastructure for wireless facilities are unreasonable because they prevent

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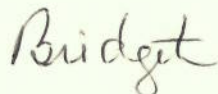
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municipalities from recouping the actual costs associated with processing applications. Additionally, by placing "deemed granted" remedies and fee caps on small cell permits, such permit requests would receive priority over the review of other essential services, such as water, sewer, electric and gas. Moreover, if the fee caps do not adequately cover permit processing costs, they will be unfairly borne by municipal taxpayers. As for-profit entities, wireless providers should be responsible for these costs.

Municipalities possess the right-of-way management and land use expertise that is necessary to facilitate small cell deployment in their communities. The City urges the Commission to refrain from preempting municipal authority and ask that it carefully consider the issues highlighted in this letter.

In closing, the City asks the Commission to allow meaningful collaboration between the City and stakeholders to design regulatory approaches that strike the delicate balance between community and industry interests, rather than preempting municipal authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget".

Bridget Donnell Newton
Mayor

cc: Rockville City Council
District 17 Delegation