August 24, 2018

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 17-79 - Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment

To the FCC:

As a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, I am keenly aware of the constant increase in society’s demand for more bandwidth as people turn to their phones, watches, and other connected devices almost 24/7 to stream shows, download movies, surf the web, and more. The next generation of wireless will satiate this demand by allowing them to do each of these things faster, but it will also bring a myriad of other technological and economic benefits for our communities. As such, I encourage the FCC to continue doing everything within its power to accelerate 5G deployment.

In order for 5G to arrive as quickly and as effectively as possible, relevant infrastructure regulations must be streamlined. It makes very little sense for rules designed for 100-foot cell towers to govern the path to deployment for modern equipment called small cells that can fit into a pizza box. Small cells can cover a city block, while a tower can cover a much larger area. Many small cells will be needed to build the backbone of a dense 5G network, but if the attachment of each small cell to a phone pole or building is subjected to the same permitting process and fees as a giant tower, many communities won’t be seeing 5G for quite some time.

Streamlining regulations would tremendously help the rapid deployment of 5G in communities of all sizes. The district I represent includes cities and villages of various sizes and we are all eager to experience the next generation of wireless. We need the FCC to exert leadership and clear a path forward that benefits everyone. Many states like Ohio have been taking action on their own. That’s encouraging, but it doesn’t change the fact that a consistent framework is best for speedy deployment; hence the value of action at the federal level.

The FCC has done a praiseworthy job of addressing this issue, but the work is far from over. Please keep the goal of removing barriers to 5G deployment at the top of your priority list.

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Andy Thompson

State Representative, Ohio House District 95