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GWTC On Small Cell Deployment Legislation

As an organization that represents the wireless interests of government wireless users, GWTC¹ is a strong supporter of the streamlining of rules and regulations governing the siting of communications towers to facilitate the development of 5G networks. These networks will help enable interconnected smart cities, which will help speed transit through and around communities while delivering advanced services and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

GWTC is concerned that recent legislation proposed in some states confuses streamlining urban small cell deployments in municipal rights of way with differing issues involving “tall” tower build-outs in rural areas. While bringing broadband services to underserved rural areas is an important goal, regulations applied to construction of utility poles under fifty feet should not be utilized for towers over fifty feet. Small cell deployments do not aid or expedite rural broadband deployments.

GWTC supports small cell legislation that permits efficient and effective deployments within public rights of way. However, such regulation should not result in rights of way cluttered with redundant poles and must not ignore the legitimate aesthetic and historic area concerns of municipalities.

GWTC stands ready to work with states and municipalities on legislation that properly facilitate small cell deployments, as well as rural broadband access. GWTC can provide draft legislation, meet with relevant policy makers and discuss the benefits that these networks can bring to municipalities.

¹ The Government Wireless Technology & Communications Association (“GWTC”) is a non-profit trade association created to advocate on behalf of government and non-government users of wireless technology and communications in the public service industries, such as public transit. GWTC’s membership includes government agencies, manufacturers, engineers and consultants working on a variety of issues impacting represented users.