

(insert date)

RE: Help Deliver the Promise of 5G to Your Constituents – Vote YES on HB5224/SB 342

Dear **Senator/Representative**:

On behalf of the Power and Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) and our 300 members from across the country, we kindly ask for your support of HB 5224/SB 342. This important legislation would replace cumbersome and conflicting local rules regarding the permitting of small cell antennas with a uniform set of statewide standards to meet the needs of wireless consumers today and to speed the deployment of 5G technology in Rhode Island.

If you are wondering why 5G deployment is so critical to our state's future, consider how much today's consumers and businesses depend on wireless connectivity. Wireless technology is no longer a luxury – it is a necessity, and the high-speed performance and reliability of 5G networks will bring will be a game-changer for wireless users around the globe.

The leap in wireless connectivity that 5G will deliver will produce tremendous improvements in healthcare, public safety, education, home entertainment, and economic growth. In fact, a recent Accenture report states that, “deploying the next generation of high-speed 5G wireless networks could create up to **three-million jobs** and add approximately **\$500 billion to U.S. GDP** through direct and indirect potential benefits.” Just imagine the enormous potential 5G will have locally in Rhode Island. But, if our laws aren't updated to reflect the evolving technology, wireless companies could take their critical investments elsewhere, leaving Rhode Island at the back of the line for 5G deployment.

5G uses small cell antennas, devices that can be inconspicuously mounted on existing structures such as utility poles or lampposts. The problem wireless providers are running into now is that municipalities and other local permitting bodies are often requiring small cells to undergo the same burdensome permitting process used to locate traditional cell towers. This regulatory roadblock is causing major delays in building out the infrastructure that enables carriers to meet customer needs to day and to deploy 5G service, which is why passing HB 5224/SB 342 is so imperative.

PCCA does not want consumers and businesses to miss out on the significant benefits 5G will bring. More than a half dozen states have already enacted legislation that will streamline the permitting process for small cell antennas, and we believe wholeheartedly that Rhode Island should be part of that trend toward promoting wireless infrastructure investment.

Please take action on this important matter before you adjourn for the year. Thank you for considering our organization's views and for all you do each and every day for the people of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,