



**Written Only Proponent Testimony on Senate SB 68
House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee
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Chairman Seiwert and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile”) in support of SB 68. T-Mobile, joins its industry peers, and other stakeholders in supporting this bill.

T-Mobile is interested in the bill because it provides wireless communication services across the State. Today, all Kansans are increasingly mobile and in many instances are reliant exclusively on the mobile networks for many of their communications needs. This transformation places ever-growing demands and expectations on our network as evidenced by significant year-over-year increases in data usage. To support this growth and unleash the potential presented by next generation wireless technology, also known as 5G, new infrastructure needs to be deployed. It should be noted that while traditional macro deployments, or large wireless broadband facilities, will remain an important component of our network design, meeting our customers’ current and future needs will require the deployment of new small cell infrastructure.

SB 68 is the result of lengthy negotiations between representatives from industry, the League of Kansas Municipalities, and representatives of the State’s largest Cities. It preserves a city’s ability to reasonably manage its public right-of-way, while providing a reasonable and predictable process for industry. Unfortunately, some Cities are requiring franchise agreements for wireless deployments, despite the fact that, unlike landline service, there is no statutory framework allowing for wireless franchises. SB 68 was drafted to clarify that issue.

SB 68, as amended, makes targeted changes to existing state law and makes it clear that franchises cannot be required for wireless facilities, while also maintaining a city’s ability to regulate the right-of-way consistent with state and federal law. SB 68 also retains a city’s ability to assess a fixed fee for the deployment of wireless facilities in the right-of-way. Based on the stakeholder engagement, the League of Kansas Municipalities is neutral on the legislation.

T-Mobile appreciates your consideration of SB 68 and urges the Committee to pass it.