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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES
DEPLOYMENT
ARTICLE VII BUDGET BILL PART BB (S.7508/A.9508)
BEFORE THE 2020 STATE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARING ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Albany, New York

The Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA)¹ is pleased to submit this written testimony in support of the Transportation and Economic Development (TED) Article VII Budget Bill (S.7508/A.9508) Part BB, “Small Wireless Facilities Deployment”, before the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Local Government. Enactment of this legislation as part of the Executive Budget proposal amending Article 13-E of the General Municipal Law will help facilitate the deployment of critical telecommunications infrastructure in New York. Without it, New York runs the risk of lagging behind the other states, especially those which have already adopted similar legislation, in terms of both growing its economy and meeting the demand of New York consumers and businesses.

TED Part BB establishes a balanced, reasonable, and predictable statewide regulatory environment for small cell broadband deployment that is consistent with federal guidelines, while continuing to rely on local input during the municipal approval process. Specifically, TED Part BB will:

¹ The Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) is the principal organization representing businesses that build, own, and operate the nation’s wireless infrastructure. On the federal, state, and local levels, WIA advocates for the widespread, responsible deployment of wireless infrastructure to enable mobile broadband access for communities everywhere.



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- Grant the wireless industry access to the public rights of way on neutral, non-discriminatory terms and conditions that promotes investment
- Allow the wireless industry to attach small wireless facilities to existing utility poles and other municipal infrastructure to increase network capacity and more quickly and efficiently deploy 5G technology
- Help avoid wasteful and time-consuming litigation that ultimately deprive the public and businesses of necessary broadband technology
- Define a “small wireless facility” using a technology-neutral, volume-based calculation that keeps pace with this nascent, evolving technology
- Set rates and fees that are fair, reasonable, and consistent with federal guidelines
- Allow New York to be competitive with the more than two dozen other states that have already enacted a statewide bill to streamline small cell deployment

Over the next few months, WIA looks forward to working with all involved stakeholders – legislators, the Governor’s office, the telecommunications industry, municipalities, and other constituencies – to help facilitate a conversation and build consensus on how New York can help accelerate mobile broadband deployment. This will help maintain New York’s status as a competitive leader in providing cutting-edge telecommunications technology and services for its businesses and citizens.

On behalf of the Wireless Infrastructure Association, we thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of TED Article VII Part BB of the 2020-21 Executive Budget proposal.

We look forward to working with you.