

For Immediate Release

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**Reintroduction of Small Cell Legislation Kickstarts Policy Discussion Surrounding  
5G Deployment Across the Commonwealth**

*PA Partnership for 5G continues to build momentum, support for statewide bill*

**HARRISBURG, PA** – The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G, an educational and advocacy group supporting the deployment of communications infrastructure that will enable 5G networks and technology throughout the state, will voice its support of HB 1400, the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, during Wednesday’s House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) and introduced today, would create a legislative framework for the deployment of small cell nodes, the backbone of 5G technology.

In its testimony to the House Consumer Affairs Committee, the PA Partnership for 5G noted that “HB 1400 will establish an application fee that allows municipalities to cover their costs relative to the processing of applications; grant municipalities a reasonable amount of time to review applications; and require infrastructure providers to take into account the aesthetic of a neighborhood in their design. If we want to remain competitive, it is imperative that Pennsylvania is prepared to reap these benefits. The PA Partnership for 5G is hopeful that HB 1400 can establish a reasonable, predictable, and uniform deployment of small cells across jurisdictions so that Pennsylvania is not left behind in the race for 5G.”

While 5G devices and networks are expected to be commercially available in 2020, Pennsylvania currently lacks the infrastructure to access 5G technology. HB 1400 aims to set standards for fees, provide a streamlined permitting process and encourage an environment which enables small cell deployment. Currently, 5G deployment is dependent upon the rules and ordinances set forth by each individual municipality in the Commonwealth, rather than one, uniform statewide process.

“The Council looks forward to the day when 5G is widely deployed in western Pennsylvania. The combination of this wireless superhighway, combined with entrepreneurial talent in the Pittsburgh region, promises to bring to fruition some exciting new solutions to complex problems. We see a strong role for state, local and federal regulators to work together to help bring this technology to our communities and believe this legislation strikes a good balance between those entities,” said Brian Kennedy, Senior Vice President, Operations & Strategic Programs for the Pittsburgh Technology Council (PTC).

The PTC, in addition to 40 other organizations across the state, are members of the PA Partnership for 5G. Formed in May of 2018, the PA Partnership for 5G aims to educate consumers about what 5G technology will enable and promote the deployment of small cell nodes, the technology that will help smart devices access 5G networks. The PA Partnership is supportive of statewide legislation that sets standards for fees, provides a streamlined permitting process and creates an environment which enables small cell deployment.

Traditionally, wireless carriers have relied upon cell towers to provide data service throughout a wide geographic area. In recent years, small cells have become more popular as the use of smart phones and

other connected devices dramatically increased, especially in dense urban areas where 4G LTE no longer reliably meets demand.

To date, 26 states have already enacted small cell legislation, and a number of other states have bills currently making their way through the legislative process.

“Until we enact HB 1400, Pennsylvania is at risk of sending a message to wireless carriers, consumers and the broader business community that Pennsylvania isn’t ready or willing to embrace a 5G future,” said Ashley Henry Shook, Spokesperson, PA Partnership for 5G. “Businesses and consumers are going to expect to have access to 5G, especially as they begin to invest in devices and applications that require a 5G network to function optimally.”

According to studies, 5G technology will help create 3 million new jobs, \$500 billion in GDP and \$275 billion in private investment. Meanwhile, the 5G infrastructure market is estimated to reach \$2.86 billion by 2020, before reaching [\\$33.72 billion by 2026](#).

5G technology will dramatically improve the way we communicate, with connections at least 40 times faster and four times greater capacity than 4G LTE. Moreover, autonomous vehicle technology, robotic deliveries, first responder networks, traffic flow solutions, and other data-driven services will require 5G to operate efficiently.

Earlier this year, members of the PA Partnership for 5G, including the PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute (PFESI), traveled to Harrisburg to explain how 5G will improve public safety.

“Access to 5G networks will improve the capabilities of the new tools that first responders are using to keep the public safe, including body cameras, gunfire detection applications, or enhanced location-based services for 911 calls,” said Jerry Ozog, Executive Director of PFESI.

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#### **About the PA Partnership for 5G**

The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G aims to educate different sectors about 5G technology and the infrastructure it requires. The Partnership brings together various leaders from a diverse set of industries and constituencies to help forge a technologically progressive Pennsylvania.

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