

**ExteNet Systems, Inc.  
Comments on  
Small Wireless Cell Deployment in Pennsylvania  
and  
House Bill 2564  
The Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act**

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Committee on Consumer Affairs**

**August 9, 2018**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, staff members and interested parties. My name is Haran Rashes. I am Director of External Relations for ExteNet Systems, Inc. ("ExteNet"), a privately held telecommunications company based in Lisle, Illinois.

ExteNet has a vital interest in Small Wireless Cell Deployment in Pennsylvania and in HB 2564, the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. ExteNet designs, builds, owns, manages and operates indoor and outdoor distributed network systems to help meet the growing demand for improved mobile and wireless broadband coverage and capacity in key strategic markets across the United States – including many such markets here in Pennsylvania. Distributed network systems bring wireless network elements such as low-powered wireless antennas and access points closer to the user to ensure ubiquitous and high-capacity wireless broadband connectivity.

Utilizing distributed antenna systems, remote radio heads, small cells, Wi-Fi and distributed core soft-switching technologies, ExteNet enables wireless service providers, enterprises and venues to better serve their subscribers, customers, workers, residents, tenants and communities.

ExteNet owns and operates multi-carrier -- often referred to as "neutral-host" -- and multi-technology distributed network systems to ensure multiple wireless service providers can provide wireless telecommunication and eventually 5G services in the most effective and efficient manner. Utilizing our neutral host facilities, ExteNet also provides licensed and/or unlicensed spectrum to the general public on a nondiscriminatory basis. ExteNet creates a scalable network design utilizing its high-bandwidth fiber network to ensure that wireless network densification needs of users and wireless service providers are met and can evolve over time as user demands dictate.

Typically, ExteNet installs distributed network systems on existing utility poles, street lights, and other existing facilities located in the public right-of-way. These



facilities are often owned by the public utility companies and sometimes by a local municipality. Access to the public rights-of-way for distributed network systems is essential not only to ExteNet but also to the people of Pennsylvania who are clamoring for more and more wireless access and bandwidth which they can only get from the natural increase in the number of wireless installations like ExteNet's.

In Pennsylvania, ExteNet is certificated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") as a Competitive Access Provider ("CAP") and has had a CAP Tariff on File with the PUC since February 10, 2006. We have pole attachment agreements in place in Pennsylvania with Duquesne Light Company, Metropolitan Edison Company, PECO Energy Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Verizon Pennsylvania, and West Penn Power. These agreements permit the placement of fiber, antenna and wireless equipment on utility owned poles within the public rights-of-way. In addition, we have agreements in place with over a dozen Pennsylvania municipalities. Through these and other agreements, ExteNet has installed networks throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ExteNet and other entities who wish to build small wireless facilities must apply to each individual municipality in which a proposed node is to be built. According to the United States Census Bureau, there are 2,560 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Each of these municipalities set their own process for dealing with the public rights-of-way in their community and access for small wireless facilities; they each set their own fees for installation of small wireless facilities in the public rights-of-way; and they each set their own timeline for dealing with applications for access to the public rights-of-way for installation of small wireless facility access.

Dealing with 2,560 separate government agencies, each with their own individual rules, rates, and timelines covering the same activity can be daunting and confusing. HB 2564 attempts to end that confusion by standardizing access to and the municipal fees for placing wireless telecommunications facilities within the public rights-of-way across the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It would assure that federally guaranteed access rights for small cell and distributed antenna systems in the public rights-of-way are maintained throughout Pennsylvania. In turn, this would result in the timely deployment of next generation 5G telecommunications and other telecommunications infrastructure vital to Pennsylvania's economic welfare. At the same time, the municipalities would still maintain control over installations in the public rights-of-way located in their communities.

Let me emphasize that the overwhelming majority of municipalities in Pennsylvania cooperate with us and recognize the economic benefits to their residents of improving wireless bandwidth and accessibility. However, there are a few outliers who do not cooperate and do not recognize the legal rights ExteNet has, under both

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existing Pennsylvania and Federal law, to install small wireless systems in the public rights-of-way.

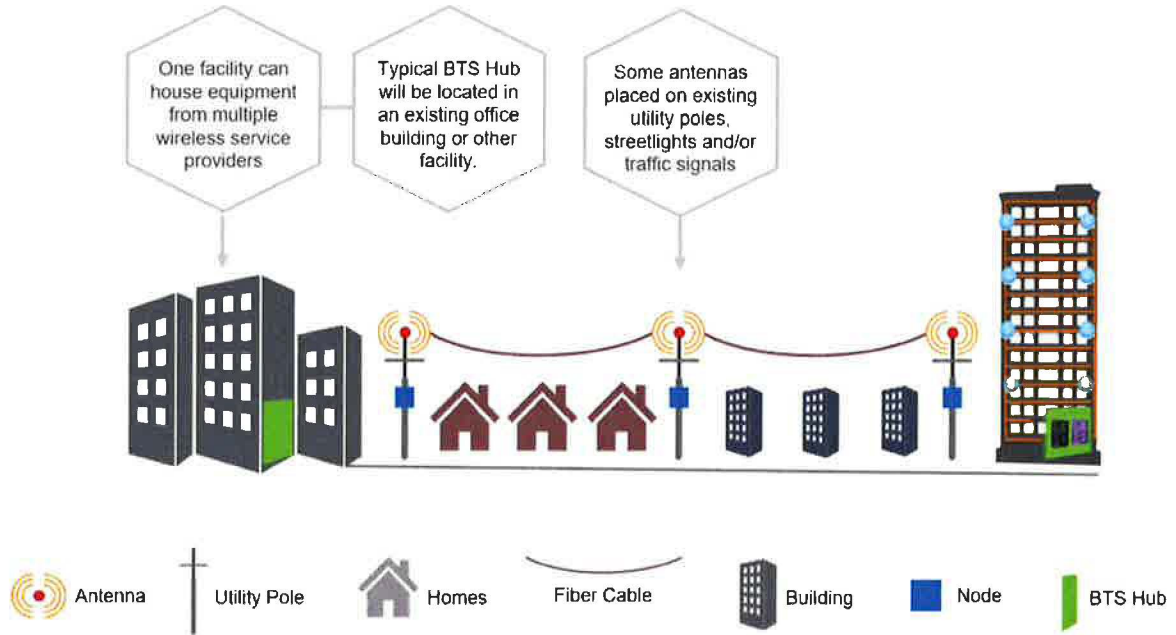
HB 2564 will give ExteNet, and similarly situate companies, assurances that access to the public rights-of-way for small wireless facilities, the process for applying for such access, and the fees for attachment of wireless telecommunications facilities to utility poles and other structures within the public rights-of-way would be the same in Hatfield, Reading, Middletown Township, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, or any other Pennsylvania municipality.

HB 2564 encourages private investment in much needed telecommunications infrastructure development that will benefit the people of Pennsylvania. ExteNet supports the passage of HB 2564.

Thank you.

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Distributed Networks (DNS) Bring Networks Closer to User to Augment Connectivity:



Typical DNS Deployment:



Sample Installations:

