



SB1345 – Wireless Broadband Collocation Act

Public Hearing Testimony

PA Senate Communications and Technology Committee

Wednesday May 2, 2012

Charlie Krudener, Area Manager, Construction & Engineering, AT&T

AT&T thanks Chairman Folmer, Chairman Farnese, and the entire Committee for the opportunity to express its support for Senate Bill 1345, the Wireless Broadband Collocation Act. AT&T supports SB1345 as it will bring enormous economic, public safety, health and welfare, and social benefits to businesses and consumers throughout Pennsylvania.

My name is Charlie Krudener and I have worked for AT&T and its predecessor wireless companies for 22 years. I work in what is called the Construction and Engineering area of our wireless business covering the eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware markets. This organization works on a daily basis to ensure our network continues to meet the increasing demands and expectations of our customers.

Consider for a moment a few statistics:

- Pew estimates that by 2020, mobile devices will be the primary access to the internet for most people in the world¹

¹ Pew Internet and American Life Project, Dec. 2008

- The average smartphone user generates ten times the amount of data traffic generated by the average non-smartphone user
- AT&T has 41.2 million smartphone users, an increase of 10 million year over year. Smartphones account for nearly sixty percent (60%) of our post-paid subscriber base
- AT&T's mobile data volumes have surged 20,000% over the past five years
- Cisco estimates that the US will see a 16-fold increase in mobile data from 2011 to 2016²

To meet this growing demand for mobile Internet services, from 2009 through 2011, AT&T invested nearly \$925 million in its Pennsylvania networks, with a focus on improving the company's mobile Internet coverage and overall performance of its networks. Our goal is to deliver a network experience that mobilizes everything for customers. The ongoing investment we're making in Pennsylvania is designed to increase coverage and reliability and to provide advanced services to our customers.

It is clear that demand for our network and the work we do in our Construction and Engineering group is critical. In my time I have seen quite a transformation in the use of our network. What began as simply wireless phone calls evolved to SMS or "texting". According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, "Young adults are the most avid texters by a wide margin. Cell owners between the ages of 18 and 24 exchange an average of 109.5 messages on a normal day—that works out to more than 3,200 texts per month—and the typical or median cell owner in this age group sends or receives 50 messages per day (or 1500 messages per month).

With the upgrades we have made, AT&T's network enables mobile broadband Internet access which brings usage and the benefits of mobility across a number of platforms using a number of devices large and small. And the exciting thing is mobile broadband and continued investment hold the promise of bringing more access to more people. From health care, to

² Cisco Visual Networking Index, Global Mobile Data Forecast, February 2012

education and distance learning opportunities, to emergency communications, to community and government resources, customers demand improved access across a number of platforms.

Even with our - and the industry's - investments, more must be done to provide the mobile Internet access that's so critically important today . This background on consumer trends and the resulting impact on our network brings us to SB1345. I spend most of the time in my days identifying areas where we need to enhance our network, looking at specific sites, and working through getting our sites on the air.

We are very creative in looking for ways to host our infrastructure on existing structures such as water towers, silos or flagpoles. The input of the community and local hosts is critical and many times it is easier to collocate where we can rather than building a new tower or structure. In many cases, we have a good working relationship with local zoning authorities. There are, however, too many situations where we must seek legal redress to enforce the law. One such case was recently resolved by the Commonwealth Court. It involved a township in Montgomery County. In this case, after an exhaustive review of potential sites, we found a suitable site, a willing landowner, and supportive surrounding property owners. In this instance, the local Zoning Hearing board approved our application to build a site, but that decision was subsequently appealed by the Township Commissioners. Unfortunately we had to enter into extensive litigation to object to the appeal. This expended our resources and taxpayers' resources. Fortunately the Commonwealth Court the Zoning Board's original approval.

SB 1345 focuses on collocation, a concept that is universally supported for its environmental and aesthetic benefits, among other reasons. SB 1345 streamlines the process for considering zoning applications consistent with recent federal law on the subject and FCC rulings. SB 1345 also protects the vital local government authority to review applications and deal with traditional permitting processes.

SB 1345 is critical in our opinion to ensure a smoother and more orderly buildout of wireless infrastructure to meet the rising demands of our wireless customers. For these reasons, I urge you to enact the Wireless Broadband Collocation Act for the benefit of all residents of the Commonwealth.