



House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Stephen P. Duerst, JD

Proponent: SB380

March 12, 2020

Chairman Seiwert and members of the committee,

My name is Stephen Duerst and I appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association (KCTA). We, along with our members, stand in strong support of SB380.

The KCTA is made up of members who operate in communities all over the state. Cox Communications, Charter Communications, Comcast, Eagle Communications, Midco, CableONE and Midco are just some of our numerous members who provide more broadband than any other association in the state. SB380 will ensure that these companies are able to continue to move Kansas forward by supplying our communities with high-speed and reliable broadband.

Like many other industries, the telecommunications industry is continuing to evolve technologically to better serve its subscribers and other third-party customers. Specifically, our member companies use micro wireless facilities, or devices about the size of a shoebox, to deliver broadband more rapidly and in a more cost-effective manner. These micro wireless facilities receive broadband signal from our hybrid fiber optic/coaxial cable network lines that have been installed in the ground. These micro wireless devices are mounted to the strand that runs from pole to pole in the right-of-way in cities across Kansas. The strand is owned by cable providers.

Cable providers are able to mount these micro wireless devices without additional fees because of the millions of dollars they pay in Kansas alone each year in the form of franchise fees to work in the right-of-way. This notion has been affirmed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In three separate decisions, the FCC has ruled that cities are prevented from double-taxation of cable provers for the work being done on strand mounts. Roughly 30 states have addressed this very issue, including all of our neighboring states.

