



Oral In-Person Testimony in Opposition to SB 547

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

March 14, 2022

Submitted by Megan Bottenberg, Cox Communications

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Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Bottenberg; I'm the Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications in Kansas. Cox Communications is the largest privately held telecommunications company in the nation, contributing more than \$732.8 million to the Kansas economy each year. Cox employs more than 1,100 Kansans, pays more than \$8.6 million a year in franchise fees in Kansas, and collects more than \$22 million in sales tax for state and local units of governments from customers on all services, except internet.

Cox Communications opposes SB 547, because it establishes an unlevel playing field. There has been a lot said about the bill that is being debated in Georgia. It has only passed the Senate in Georgia and has not yet been referred to a committee in the House. That specific bill is different than this bill, and Cox did oppose that bill.

Who pays franchise fees and how much is a conversation happening across the county, and Cox supports having this much needed and valuable conversation. But it needs to be had at a wholistic level with all industry players involved—not just carving out one. If this bill were to pass it complicates any effort to find a fairer way for all customers. Cox is requesting that, instead of passing this bill, we spend time this year evaluating this issue with all of our industry partners and determine the best solution for all of our customers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.