



Thomas A. Schatz, *President*
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Washington, D.C. 20036
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February 17, 2021

The Honorable Kay Ivey
The Office of Alabama Governor
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey,

On behalf of the 21,054 members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste in Alabama, I urge you to sign SB 76, a bill to provide enhanced application processing for wireless small cell siting.

SB 76 will standardize and accelerate the approval process for siting applications for small cell equipment necessary for the provision of 5G networks on existing poles and other structures already being used for wireless technology. The bill requires the prompt review of applications and a response within 10 days of receipt of the appropriate paperwork relating to pole attachments or pole siting.

The deployment of 5G next generation technology is critical to the nation's communications capabilities. In a time of economic uncertainty and global challenges during the pandemic, it has never been more important for the U.S. to remain at the forefront of creating a strong, stable, and secure 5G network. Increased 5G will increase state GDP by \$11 billion and create 31,500 jobs. Faster streaming and download speeds, more reliable internet connections, better resource management, and the deployment of new technological advances will enhance telemedicine, precision agriculture, and education and move the state quickly and successfully into the next generation of telecommunications and technology.

Again, I strongly urge you to sign SB 76.

Sincerely,

Tom Schatz