



**Testimony of
ANNISSA REED
CTIA**

In Support of LD 1975

**Before the
Maine Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

October 30, 2025

Chair Sachs, Chair Lawrence, and committee members, on behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am here to express support for LD 1975, which repeals the Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act, thereby eliminating the ConnectMaine Authority. The Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act, enacted nearly two decades ago, established the ConnectMaine Authority and created a \$0.10 per line per month surcharge on mobile and wireline customers to fund broadband expansion in unserved areas.

The Governor has stated that every Mainer now has access to broadband, and Maine has received \$272 million in federal broadband funding, yet the surcharge remains in place, raising roughly \$2 million per year, money that duplicates far larger federal programs and provides no direct benefit to wireless users.

Wireless customers already contribute millions of dollars annually to the State through, 5.5 percent sales tax, 911 fees, and Universal Service Fund surcharges. Eliminating



the ConnectMaine fee would provide for a helpful reduction to the consumer tax and fee burden.

The wireless industry invests \$80–90 million every year in Maine to expand and upgrade its networks. Removing this outdated surcharge will help encourage continued private investment in networks that drive local economic growth, job creation, and connectivity across the state. In 2024, Americans used more than 132 trillion megabytes of mobile data, shattering the 100T MB mark set just the year before and marking the third straight year of approximately 35% growth.¹ To meet this demand, our members are investing tens of billions of dollars annually to update the nation's wireless networks, including in Maine, where the wireless industry supports more than 14,000 jobs and generates \$1.1 billion in annual GDP growth. Meeting this demand requires clear, consistent and streamlined policies that drive investment and commitment to upgrading wireless infrastructure, whether to support connectivity for local businesses, schools and families or ensuring resilient service.

With broadband access goals achieved and hundreds of millions in federal dollars already allocated, continuing to operate a separate state fund is unnecessary. LD 1975 retires a completed program and ensures that existing oversight, such as PUC pole-attachment rules and municipal broadband authority, remains fully intact.

For these reasons, CTIA respectfully urges the Committee to advance LD 1975.

¹ [CTIA - 2025 Annual Survey Highlights](#)