



February 5, 2024

Senator Michael Tipping – Chair
Joint Committee On Labor and Housing
Cross Building, Room 202
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Representative Amy Roeder – Chair
Joint Committee On Labor and Housing
Cross Building, Room 202
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Opposition to LD 373 Proposed Amendment

Chair Tipping, Chair Roeder and Committee Members,

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write in opposition to the proposed amendment to LD 373, which would impose undue and unnecessary burdens on broadband deployment. While CTIA shares Maine's commitment to advancing broadband, this legislation will only create further barriers to deployment.

As broadband deployment has been prioritized at all levels of government and residents demand it, flexible policies that spur investment in networks are critically important. At a time when reliable connectivity is more important than ever, it is critical that Maine not be left behind. That is why policies must keep the door open for investment to deploy and upgrade infrastructure, deliver strong network performance and reliability and create jobs and economic growth. Imposing unnecessary requirements would take Maine in the opposite direction.

The mandates included in the proposed amendment are especially unnecessary because of the significant economic benefits that broadband providers contribute in the state. In Maine alone, the wireless industry supports 14,000 jobs, generates \$1.1 billion in economic activity and provides \$527 million in pay and benefits for wireless industry employees. In turn, this commitment enables our employees and our industry to continue to invest in infrastructure to upgrade the networks in Maine and across the nation. In 2022 alone, wireless carriers invested \$39 billion to deploy infrastructure and meet ever-growing consumer demand. Accordingly, we oppose mandates that would stunt infrastructure deployment, including those outlined in the proposed amendment to LD 373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Crandall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy Crandall
Assistant Vice President
State Legislative Affairs