



February 28, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee

RE: Sponsorship of H.R. 530: Restoring Local Government Authority

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

The members of the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and The United States Conference of Mayors request your leadership in helping preserve local zoning and regulatory authority by supporting the “Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019” (H.R. 530).

Specifically, we write to urge you and your House colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that would roll back the recent FCC ruling regarding 5G small cell deployment that would severely limit the ability of local governments to regulate public property and rights-of-way (e.g., attachments to street lights, utility poles, public buildings), obtain a fair market value for industry use of public property and ensure equal service to all in the community.

Moreover, the rules set “shot clocks” that eliminate the possibility for community input and set unreasonable timetables for local governments to conduct necessary inspections, protect public safety and ensure aesthetic protections for small cell wireless installations. The FCC’s order unnecessarily complicates existing agreements between local authorities and wireless providers by imposing a one-size-fits-all preemption of existing state and local policies. Local government officials want to ensure the efficient, safe, and appropriate deployment of new broadband technology. However, this sweeping regulation prevents local governments from being good stewards to public property, safety and welfare.

We urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 530, and work together with local governments to find the best solution for effective small cell deployment that meets the diverse needs of our nation’s many unique communities.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact us: Angelina Panettieri (NLC) at 202-626-3196 or panettieri@nlc.org, Arthur Scott (NACo) at 202-942-4230 or ascott@naco.org, or Kevin McCarty (USCM) at 202-861-6728 or kmccarty@usmayors.org.

Respectfully submitted,

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors

cc: Members of the 116th Congress