



**Testimony of
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In Opposition to Nebraska Legislative Bill 1114
CTIA**

Before the Nebraska Legislature Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

February 20, 2018

Chairperson Friesen and members of the committee, on behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am here testify in opposition to Legislative Bill 1114, which would mandate unnecessary and onerous broadband mapping requirements on Nebraska telecommunications providers. Although the bill is well intentioned, LB 1114 would duplicate efforts already undertaken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and would be costly for wireless carriers, especially more rural carriers, to implement.

The FCC already requires wireless carriers, through Form 477, to report broadband data. The broadband mapping information supplied by wireless carriers through Form 477 is already available for states to use. Adding a broadband mapping mandate at the state level would be duplicative and not an efficient use of carrier resources. Imposing a new Nebraska requirement would force wireless carriers to divert investment from broadband deployment and network upgrades to comply with the mapping mandate in LB 1114. Such an outcome would not benefit consumers.

In addition, the FCC is currently reviewing the Form 477 reporting obligations on carriers. As part of that review, the FCC is examining whether bi-annual reporting of mapping data is necessary and whether such a reporting timeline adds any benefit to understanding where carriers are providing broadband service. The FCC is exploring



whether carriers, instead, should report on an annual basis. LB 1114 would require reporting on a bi-annual basis even though the FCC is questioning the utility of such a reporting regime.

Moreover, this legislation would require more granular level mapping than the FCC requirements. It is unlikely that wireless carriers currently collect such granular mapping for reporting purposes. Therefore, they would have to create new compliance systems to collect and process this data. Such a requirement would impose burdensome new financial and regulatory costs on wireless carriers. In fact, this type of mandate hits smaller carriers and carriers providing service in rural areas especially hard, as they do not have the systems and personnel to satisfy these obligations. As the U.S. focuses on deploying broadband to more rural areas, it is counter to such a policy to divert capital and personnel from helping to meet that goal to comply with an unnecessary and burdensome mapping reporting regulation.

Finally, the Nebraska Legislature codified wireless carriers' exemption from Public Service Commission regulation in 1986. It is indisputable that this decision helped spur one of the greatest success stories in U.S. history. LB 1114 would take us back a step by proposing that the PSC can somehow regulate wireless carriers by promulgating new regulations related to this type of data collection and allowing it to sanction carriers. The resulting regulatory paradigm would not benefit consumers and could actually harm wireless carriers and slow broadband deployment in the state.

In closing, CTIA opposes LB 1114 because it is unnecessary as it duplicates federal efforts in this area and diverts limited resources away from broadband deployment to



comply with burdensome reporting requirements. For these reasons, we ask that you not move this bill. Thank you for your consideration.