Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon.
Jerry Moran
Written Questions for the Record to
Brad Gillen

Question 1. I understand that the next generation of 5G wireless networks will require hundreds of thousands of small cells that will be placed on existing infrastructure. I'm encouraged that the FCC recently released a draft decision that would exempt some of these small cells from the burdensome and costly environmental and historic process reviews that the FCC is required to conduct. Does CTIA favor the proposed action?

Yes, consistent with the helpful direction in your legislation, the RAPID Act, the Federal Communications Commission's decision to update the environmental and historic preservation reviews designed for large cell towers will accelerate 5G deployment, spur significant new investment, innovation and job creation and help the United States win the global race to 5G.

The wireless industry is preparing to install 800,000 small cells in the next few years to make 5G a reality. These small cells are roughly the size of a pizza box and can be installed in an hour or two on a streetlight or utility pole, but it can take a year or more to get the necessary siting permits due to rules designed for 200-foot cell towers.

The Commission's March 22 decision to modernize some NEPA and NHPA permitting reviews will mean tremendous time and cost savings that will boost network investment and job creation, without impacting the environment or historic properties, as reviews will still happen when appropriate.

A recent Accenture report found that almost a third of the cost of next-generation wireless deployments go to federal reviews that the FCC modernized with their decision. Accenture projects reforms like those the FCC adopted could bring $1.6 billion in savings, helping jumpstart 5G deployment.

In addition to these reforms, the most important thing the federal government can now do is update its nationwide guidelines for how state and local governments treat siting requests.

Question 2. To win the global race of 5G, the wireless industry needs to rapidly deploy small cells, but many of today's rules were designed for the large macro towers. I appreciate the work that the FCC is doing this month to modernize the environmental and historic preservation rules, but what should Congress do to ensure the United States remains the world's leader in wireless?

Congress can help the United States remain the world's leader in wireless by focusing on two main issues: 1) infrastructure reforms and 2) building a spectrum pipeline.

1) To unlock hundreds of billions of investment in new networks, the U.S. needs a modernized siting framework. The most meaningful step Congress can take is to provide clear direction and guardrails to state and local governments for wireless infrastructure siting. CTIA is encouraged that Senators Thune and Schatz have circulated a discussion draft that updates congressional

guidance to localities to reflect how wireless infrastructure has evolved. The draft's "shot clock" provision provides reasonable timelines for states and localities to act on siting applications and creates an important enforcement mechanism – the "deemed granted" remedy. The FCC has already had a "deemed granted" tool in place since 2014 for certain facilities requests, but this should be broadened to cover all siting reviews to expedite deployment decisions. The draft also clarifies that localities retain the right to charge for access to public property, provided that rates are fair and reasonable, competitively and technologically neutral, and based on actual costs. The impact of excessive fees is real: disproportionate costs to site wireless infrastructure hinder deployment, particularly in rural areas. These proposed reforms would promote broadband investment, while preserving local authority in key areas like zoning, safety, and aesthetics.

When it comes to the federal review process and siting on federal lands, we applaud recent reforms. The FCC's action to streamline environmental and historic preservation reviews designed for large cell towers, consistent with your common-sense legislation, the RAPID Act (S. 2576) as well as the SPEED Act (S. 1988) introduced by Senators Wicker and Cortez Masto will accelerate 5G deployment. In addition, the inclusion of a shot clock on federal agencies and other provisions to streamline wireless deployments on federal lands in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 was important progress. Congress can further facilitate wireless deployments on federal property by creating a deemed granted remedy for siting applications that are not addressed in a timely manner like that included in the Rural Broadband Deployment Streamlining Act (S. 1363) introduced by Senators Heller and Manchin.

2) We need a new schedule of spectrum auctions to support consumer demand and 5G. Congress has already identified a number of bands including low-, mid-, and high-bands for both study and auction, including those proposed by Senators Gardner and Hassan in the AIRWAVES Act (S. 1682). The FCC has recently announced at least one high-band auction this year, and a clear schedule of additional spectrum auctions would create certainty, encourage investment, and allow wireless providers to plan and build their 5G networks to maximize efficiency and robustness.

Question 3. Are Congress, the FCC, and the Administration doing enough to help the U.S. win the race to 5G, or are we in serious danger of ceding the mantle of wireless leadership to China, Japan, and South Korea?

The U.S. is in a very tight race to lead in 5G. China, South Korea, and other nations are threatening to overtake our wireless leadership by investing billions, allocating huge blocks of spectrum, and conducting hundreds of 5G trials.

The good news is that America's wireless industry is already investing in the next generation of wireless with trials across the country and some initial 5G deployments planned for this year. According to Accenture research, the U.S. wireless industry contributes $475 billion annually to America's economy and supports 4.7 million jobs and the industry is poised to invest $275

billion of its own private capital to build next-generation wireless networks. This will create more than 3 million new jobs, and add $500 billion to our economy, according to Accenture.

The wireless industry will continue to invest, deploy, and innovate, but our continued global leadership depends on a committed and comprehensive spectrum and infrastructure policy.

If Congress follows through on these key reforms in 2018, we will be well positioned to be the world's leader in wireless:

- ***Address wireless infrastructure needs**. Federal policymakers can help the U.S. win the race to 5G by updating its guidance for state and local governments on wireless infrastructure siting, and further build on recent reforms to streamline siting on federal lands. The U.S. will not win the global race if timelines and costs are not significantly reduced across the country.*
- ***Spectrum pipeline**. We are encouraged that congressional leaders and the FCC are focused on the key spectrum bands we need for our future, and the challenge now is executing quickly on these priorities. The U.S. has no mid-band spectrum (3-24 GHz) currently available for commercial use. The FCC is focused on finalizing more investment-friendly rules for the 3.5 GHz band, but a timetable for bringing that spectrum to market remains unclear. While the FCC is exploring other mid-band spectrum bands, including the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, which is a key band for 5G globally, there is no clear timetable for a future auction. We applaud the FCC's announcement that at least one high-band auction will be held in 2018, and we encourage policymakers to ready additional high-band spectrum for 5G networks. Additionally, underused federal spectrum should be reallocated for commercial use where possible. We strongly support Senators Gardner and Hassan's AIRWAVES Act, which provides a clear plan for additional spectrum across a wide and diverse range of frequencies.*

Question 4. A growing number of states have adopted legislation to accelerate the deployment of small cells. Are any of these new state laws a particularly good model for us to follow if we undertake an effort to create a Federal framework for the deployment of small cells?

A new Accenture study shows the powerful impact of wireless investment and innovation across all 50 states. In Kansas alone, the wireless industry contributes $7 billion to the State's economy and supports 63,000 jobs. Fifteen states, including Kansas, have enacted legislation to modernize rules impacting the deployment of small cells, with other legislatures actively considering bills. The key provisions of the state bills that make the biggest impact is the inclusion of clear timetables for government action on siting requests and setting cost-based rates for siting. States that are the first facilitate wireless infrastructure deployment will likely see the greatest benefit.

At the federal level, Congress has repeatedly prioritized the rapid deployment of wireless infrastructure as a national priority and previously set nationwide guidelines for how localities should treat siting requests. The race to 5G necessitates updating Congress's guidance to localities, as the rules that applied to the infrastructure of the past are no longer appropriate to support next-generation 5G deployment. CTIA is encouraged that Chairman Thune and Sen. Schatz have circulated a discussion draft that seeks to provide clear direction – and guardrails

around – state and local governments, while preserving local authority over zoning, safety, and aesthetics.

We support state and federal efforts to provide reasonable access to rights of way, reasonable costs and fees, and streamlined processes for the deployment of small cells.