



January 27, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am writing to request that House Bill 90 (HB90) be amended. As written, HB90 would allow counties to impose a new, additional property tax on business property, creating an unnecessary financial burden on wireless providers, discouraging broadband investment, and potentially resulting in double taxation in jurisdictions that already collect telecommunications-specific taxes.

Wireless providers are investing tens of millions of dollars to upgrade networks across Maryland, ensuring businesses, consumers, and communities have access to fast, reliable connectivity. This bill, as currently drafted, would slow broadband deployment by increasing the recurring costs of this network investment, making Maryland less attractive for broadband investment compared to neighboring states. Broadband access is critical for economic growth, particularly in rural and underserved communities, where it enables remote work, online education, access to government services, and modern business operations.

This bill would allow counties to impose the additional education property tax on wireless providers who are already subject to very high city and county telecommunications taxes specifically to fund education. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's County currently impose these taxes, and just last year the Prince George's County Council approved a 275% increase in the local tax on wireless service.

To prevent jurisdictions from double taxing telecommunications providers, we respectfully request the following amendment:

On page 3, after line 29, insert:

“(IV) ANY CITY OR COUNTY THAT IMPOSES A SPECIAL TAX ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE MAY NOT IMPOSE THE SPECIAL RATE AUTHORIZED BY THIS SUBSECTION ON PROPERTY USED IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE”.

By adopting this amendment, the Committee can ensure that jurisdictions already imposing telecommunications taxes are prohibited from applying this additional tax to telecommunications network property.

For these reasons, CTIA urges the Committee to amend HB90. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annissa Reed

Annissa Reed

Director, State and Local Affairs