



Press Statement

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MMTC Statement on FCC Proposal to Streamline 5G Deployment Review Process

Washington, DC (March 19, 2018): Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr recently announced the FCC's intent to streamline the 5G deployment review process by exempting small cells from certain reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) finds the proposal to be a viable road map worthy of a full review. Noting the objections of several Native American tribes and organizations to certain elements of the process, MMTC strongly encourages the Commission to work closely with the tribal and environmental associations and stakeholders to resolve their concerns expeditiously and fairly.

Commissioner Carr's remarks suggest that, given their limited coverage footprint, small cells should be regulated similarly to smaller unlicensed equipment such as consumer signal boosters, rather than being subjected to processes designed for larger, more obtrusive sites such as macrocell towers. By exempting small cells from the review process, the Commission would substantially accelerate small cell deployment, delivering positive economic benefits.

According to an [Accenture](#) report released last week, there would be an estimated savings of \$1.56 billion between 2018 and 2026 if the proportion of small cells requiring review were reduced by two-thirds. That would help operators deploy far more small cells in a shorter time. The FCC predicts that this savings would create 17,000 jobs. MMTC supports efforts that create jobs and business opportunities, and that help to narrow the digital divide.

MMTC encourages the Commission to keep all interests in mind as it continues to develop its policies on 5G deployment. In general, this means that the Commission should balance the needs, opportunities, and impacts on jobs, underserved communities, tribes, and the environment, while remaining technology neutral as it facilitates the expansion of wireless and wireline technology deployment.

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. The views expressed in this Press Statement are MMTC's institutional views and are not intended to reflect the views of individual MMTC directors or members.