

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Via hand delivery

July 25, 2019

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for S. 2012- the Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your S. 2012, which would overturn last year's FCC decisions related to wireless infrastructure. As you know, these actions served to improperly limit local government review of small cell equipment on poles and facilities in our jurisdictions. We agree that deployment of the infrastructure supporting new cellular technology is important as we advance technologically, but we believe that such deployment must be completed in a thoughtful manner. Palo Alto also believes that placing this equipment on poles in local jurisdictions should be done through the public process usually associated with local government.

As you have noted, local governments are best positioned to determine the safety and impact of additional equipment on our own poles. Taking this ability from cities to properly review the design, safety, and unintended consequences of small cell infrastructure located in our cities is not in the best interest of our residents or businesses. Like other cities, Palo Alto has a formal process for vetting wireless facilities. We maintain a transparent application and approval process, one that informs our community through [our website](#) and open meetings. The fees we charge are nominal and directly related to the cost of service. Importantly, telecommunication companies have successfully utilized our process in the past and do so currently.

The FCC's decision to place a time limit on our ability to review small cell applications, cap fees, and restrict our ability to best determine the needs for our own city represents the FCC's failure to listen to local governments across the country. As such, we support your effort to return these decisions to local governments. Thank you for your action; we look forward to continuing our support as S. 2012 moves forward.

Yours,



Eric Filseth
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc: The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Kamala Harris
Palo Alto City Council
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager