



May 29, 2020

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Garvey,

Small wireless facilities can transform Arlington's digital infrastructure. Access to 5G wireless technology will help cement Arlington's status as a global leader in innovation. This technology also has the potential to expand wireless internet access, which the recent stay-at-home order has shown to be a necessity for all Arlingtonians to have equitable access to work, school, healthcare, and other resources.

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce was an early advocate for Arlington to take a proactive approach to deploying small wireless facilities, and we are grateful to the County Board for its quick action in establishing a process last summer. Now, as wireless service providers work on installing these facilities, it is important that Arlington County follow through on ensuring that the implementation process is streamlined.

Arlington County and providers can complete many permitting steps concurrently to avoid deployment delays. In particular, it is important for providers to secure specific sites they will be deploying once the physical technology is approved so that they can begin the many steps involved with small cell installations. Providers and the County have agreed on a standard facility design, so it is possible to plan for siting during the technology pilot based on the agreed design. We encourage Arlington County to allow providers to file location permits and to complete other preparatory steps during the technology pilot.

Small wireless facilities and 5G have the potential to help Arlington achieve many community goals, and there is wide agreement across the private and public sectors on the benefits of rapidly deploying this technology. The Chamber encourages Arlington County to work collaboratively and creatively to help providers deploy this technology in Arlington without avoidable delays.

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Katie Cristol, Matt de Ferranti, and Christian Dorsey; County Manager Mark Schwartz; County Ombudspeople Ben Aiken and Katelyn Thomas; Department of Environmental Services Director Greg Emanuel, Chief Operating Officer Mike Moon, and Bureau Chief Hui Wang