



Jeremy Crandall

February 2, 2026

RE: Opposition to H 7333

Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to express our opposition to H7333. While we applaud Rhode Island's ongoing commitment to expanding access to broadband services, the bill is unnecessary.

As background, current state law explicitly states in its Findings at *Section 39-28-1* that the rapid growth of internet services was due in large part to "little barrier to investment, including freedom from traditional state laws and regulations..." H7333 specifically repeals the prohibition against state agencies enacting or enforcing laws that regulate the "rates, terms, or conditions" of VoIP and IP-enabled services, paving the way for "traditional state entry, rate, and service term regulation," which existing law explicitly warns would harm competition.

Repealing these protections and introducing state oversight would jeopardize future capital investment and the continued development of innovative services. In 2024, wireless providers invested \$29 billion and nearly \$219 billion since 2018 to expand the nation's networks.¹ These investments support consumers and fuel economic growth in Rhode Island, where the wireless industry employs approximately 10,000 residents and contributes \$1 billion to the state's GDP annually. The ability of our industry to maintain this progress relies on policies that align with the existing federal regulatory regime for wireless, which improves efficiency and removes barriers to deployment.

The current policy environment – and not onerous or duplicative regulation or policies included in this bill – is also unleashing substantial consumer benefits. This includes:

- *Lower Prices:* Even as inflation raised prices for most consumer goods and services, the price of wireless service declined by 0.5% over the past four years. The price per megabyte dropped 62% from 2020 to 2024.
- *More Choice:* 5G wireless home broadband is the fastest growing broadband connection in the nation, delivering real competition to wireline home broadband services. In 2024, 5G fixed wireless access added nearly 4 million new subscribers, representing 99% of all new fixed broadband subscriptions.
- *Record Demand:* Consumers used a record 132 trillion megabytes of mobile data last year, fueled by a historic 32 trillion MB year-over-year increase, the single largest jump in U.S. wireless history. This marks the third straight year of roughly 35% annual growth.²

¹ <https://www.ctia.org/news/americans-use-record-132-trillion-mbs-of-wireless-data-in-2024-ctia-annual-survey-finds/>

² <https://www.ctia.org/news/2024-annual-survey-highlights>



Additionally, a December 2024 study from Advanced Analytical Consulting Group found that the regulatory frameworks governing electric and water utilities have led “to deterred investment, aging infrastructure, and rising prices.” Between 2012 and 2022, electricity rates rose 27 percent and water prices rose 57 percent while wireless prices declined by 44 percent across the United States. Moving Rhode Island towards state regulation of broadband, as this bill would do, will usher in regulatory uncertainty and deter investments in broadband networks, putting the state at a disadvantage relative to others.

Relatedly, this General Assembly took proactive steps in 2013 by recognizing that wireless is an inherently interstate service and preempting the state Public Utilities Commission and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers from regulating wireless. Since then, consumers in Rhode Island have reaped substantial benefits from what is the wireless success story. These benefits are a result of the regulatory certainty in Rhode Island that fosters competition, which drives continued investment in networks. Rhode Island should keep this environment in place.

Given the many ongoing benefits to Rhode Island consumers, we oppose H7333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Crandall".

Jeremy Crandall
Assistant Vice President
State Legislative Affairs