



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF THE NEW ENGLAND CONNECTIVITY &
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION RE HOUSE BILL NO. 8464**

April 27, 2026

Dear Chair McEntee and distinguished Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association (NECTA), I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony concerning House Bill 8464, relating to the construction and maintenance of state roads.

NECTA appreciates the construction worker safety issues that this bill seeks to address by ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent motor vehicle crashes at construction sites on state roads. However, our members are concerned that, as currently drafted, the bill could have some unintended consequences. As the scope of the bill applies to any work on state roads, this could capture the routine activities of our cable broadband members, such as fiber installation and repair, emergency restoration work, and pole attachment transfers, much of which is done with a bucket truck often in coordination with local law enforcement for traffic control. Imposing a one-size fits all to road construction road could create significant capital and compliance costs for telecommunications and broadband deployment work in the state. As we do not believe this was the intent of the bill, we are open to working with the sponsor to narrow the scope of the bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Timothy O. Wilkerson
President
twilkerson@connectingne.com

ABOUT NECTA

NECTA is a five-state regional trade association representing substantially all private cable broadband providers in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. In Rhode Island, NECTA represents Cox Communications. Cox produces an estimated \$850 million annually in economic activity in the state and employs over 600 Rhode Island residents generating over \$57 million in wage and salary payments.