



April 6, 2026

RE: Opposition to S2345

Chairman Britto and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to express our opposition to S2345. 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..." S2345 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:* In the past year, wireless prices are down 5%, and since 2010, the price of unlimited wireless plans has been cut almost 70%, adjusted for inflation, while the price per MB of mobile data has dropped 99%.² One leading telecom research analyst recently said in March 2026, "The value proposition of a broadband connection in 2025 is better by nearly every measure than what consumers had in 2017."³
- *Faster Speeds:* While consumers pay less, wireless networks are carrying more data at faster speeds than ever before.⁴ Wireless speeds are up over 117 times since 2010.⁵
- *More Choice:* In 2025, 5G fixed wireless access added nearly 4 million new subscribers, representing 99% of new broadband subscriptions.

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

² U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics

³ <https://www.lightreading.com/wireless/the-bright-spot-in-the-family-budget>

⁴ See Smarter and More Efficient at 3, 6-7.

⁵ CTIA, *The Wireless Industry: An American Success Story*, <https://www.ctia.org/the-wireless-industry/wireless-industry> (last visited Feb. 19, 2026).



- *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.

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 S2345.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Crandall
Assistant Vice President
State Legislative Affairs