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In 2017, the state of Arizona passed a law championed by conservatives and led by Gov. Doug Ducey. The law, HB 2365, streamlined the permitting process for wireless infrastructure and was heralded by many experts as a model for the nation. Taking a page from the Arizona model, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is delivering massive change in the way technology is accessed and utilized by millions of individuals nationwide.

At their open meeting in March, the agency voted to "clarify and modify the procedures" on how wireless infrastructure deployments are reviewed across the country. The vote comes at

Editorial: Are there thousands of ineligible immigrants registered to vote in Pa.? We don't know yet

a time when it's important to ensure communities are not left behind and that the public sector doesn't get in the way of technological innovation, but unfortunately some on the commission voted against those communities and the race for 5G. The two Democrats at the FCC (Mignon Clyburn and Jessica Rosenworcel) voted against the move, and it is not only disappointing but somewhat surprising considering statements both have made in the past.

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, nominated in 2011, said during her confirmation hearing that, "To prosper in the twenty-first century, all of our communities, urban, rural and everything in-between, need this access. Our communications networks and the access they provide should be the envy of the world."

Where is the Jessica Rosenworcel who testified before the Senate Commerce Committee less than seven years ago? What changed her mind? She professed (under oath, I might add) that in order to prosper as a nation in this day and age we should be better than the rest of the world when it came to our communications networks. Yet when given the chance to improve lives, she said "no."

Democrats on the FCC have been promoting 5G, increased access, and technological innovation for years. One only needs to look at Ms. Rosenworcel's opening statement during her confirmation hearing:

"Communications technologies are a source of tremendous opportunity. They support our commerce, they connect our communities, and they enhance our security. They help create good jobs. And by unlocking the full potential of broadband, we will alter the way we educate, create, entertain and govern ourselves."

When the Republicans were in the minority they voted with their Democratic colleagues to pass a unanimous rule that paved the way for 5G technology in the United States. Sadly, it appears that after a lot of hollow talk about helping those in need, securing America's role in the race for 5G, and fostering new and innovative technologies, Ms. Rosenworcel has chosen to put politics first.

If Ms. Rosenworcel truly believed that communications technologies are so critical to our economic well-being, then why would she stand in the way of allowing for greater opportunities when it comes to increased deployment that will help encourage more access to 5G technology? What changed between 2016 and 2018? Could it be that a Republican was elected president and named a Republican chairman of the FCC? Does the philosophy of #resistance guide Democrats at the FCC?

Ms. Rosenworcel is not alone in this sudden shift on technological advancement. During the July 2016 open meeting, fellow Democratic FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn said "We need to be as creative, flexible, and forward thinking on the community and opportunity inclusion front, as we are on the technological innovations front."

That is exactly what the FCC did in the March meeting when they voted to streamline the process for wireless infrastructure development. So why did Ms. Clyburn change her mind? Again, what's the difference between July of 2016 and March of 2018 other than Democrats aren't running the White House and the FCC?

There was a time when both Democratic commissioners believed very much in the promise of new technologies for wireless infrastructure. Yet, when given the chance at the last open meeting, they decided to go with politics first. Republican FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, who has been making the case for fostering innovation by encouraging wireless infrastructure development, stated that "Winning the global race to 5G, and ensuring that more Americans get access to more broadband is a top priority."

Those used to be a top priorities for Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel. Technology continues to change and as more advancements and innovations occur in both the wireless and wireline communications space it is critical that the government do more to encourage growth, not discourage it. The FCC is doing exactly that under the leadership of Chairman Ajit Pai, and Commissioners Michael O'Rielly and Carr. Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel should rejoin their colleagues and put America first. – *Washington Times*

A years-long effort to expand access to high-speed internet to all corners of Colorado, [especially far-flung rural areas](#), will likely get a boost once the ballots from Tuesday's statewide election are tallied. Voters from a half dozen Colorado cities and towns — Firestone, Frisco, Lake City, Limon, Lyons, and Severance — went to the ballot box Tuesday to decide [whether to cast off a 2005 state law that restricts municipal governments](#) from providing broadband internet service. Final results from the election were still being compiled Tuesday night.

If the vote goes as expected — 86 cities and towns and more than 30 counties have already overturned the law in just the past decade — it will mean more options for deploying a service that many now equate to water and electricity in terms of its critical role in economic vitality. "If an area doesn't have reliable, good broadband access and availability, that area is not going to thrive," said Jud Hollingsworth, a town trustee with Lake City, a mountain town of several hundred residents that is among the most remote in Colorado. "Residents here are saying if they could have some competition in that area, they would welcome that."

Across the state in Limon, town manager Dave Stone said residents in his eastern plains community have been less than pleased with the internet service they get now. "We continually hear from people who have difficulty getting the broadband service they need," he said. "They certainly feel there's a need for competition in town."

How that competition might play out in Lake City and Limon is something neither Hollingsworth nor Stone would venture to guess, but they know their residents want more ways to widen the

pipe to the online world. Examples of cities and counties [taking different approaches to expanding broadband opportunities](#) abound in Colorado.

Several, including [Fort Morgan](#) and Wray, are teaming up with the private sector, like local telephone providers, to get people hooked up to high-speed internet service. Others, like [Longmont](#) and [Rio Blanco County](#), have taken a more autonomous approach to providing robust speeds that can reach a blazing fast 1 gigabit per second.

Tony Neal-Graves, executive director of the Colorado Broadband Office, said the state still has a goal of providing 85 percent of Colorado's rural areas with broadband internet access by the end of the year. The coverage is currently at 77 percent. One thing that will help, Neal-Graves said, is the bill that was [signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper on Monday](#).

Senate Bill 2 [will take money collected from fees levied on phone lines](#) and divert it toward building broadband service that operates at a minimum 10 megabits per second. In 2019, 60 percent of the money will go toward broadband, with that portion increasing in 2023 to 100 percent, or roughly \$27 million a year, according to a legislative analysis. "The good news is that everybody gets the fact that broadband is essentially like water and electricity," Neal-Graves said.

The American Civil Liberties Union last week released a report urging cities and towns to provide internet service "as a utility." The basis for the organization's report: the Federal Communications Commission's [recent rollback of net neutrality rules](#). "Municipal governments still have the option of providing broadband service themselves and implementing the net neutrality and privacy protections that are no longer required of private companies by federal policies," the ACLU said in a news release last week.

Neal-Graves said some municipal leaders in Colorado were "spooked" by the FCC's December ruling and want to make sure they have more than just one choice of internet provider, no matter where they might be located in the state. – *Denver Post*

Tennessee is ready.

Economic growth has become a staple of Tennessee, boosting state and local revenue collections which has led to important investments in our education systems and other crucial programs without raising taxes. For economic growth to continue, infrastructure investment is crucial. Infrastructure is inclusive of many things that of course include roads, bridges, water and sewer, and it should include our network infrastructure that is crucial to our economic growth and everyday communication needs and demands.

For the network systems we demand each and every day, Tennessee must be ready. Ready for mobile health advancements to bring the best care to those in remote areas. Ready to save millions of dollars each year with smart grid

technology. Ready to save lives with enhanced sensors to provide guidance in dangerous weather events. A vital component to our readiness is small cell technology.

Small cells are antennae about the size of a pizza box that wireless providers are deploying across the country to handle increased demand for mobile data. Together, they will lay the foundation for Smart Cities and the 5G network. 5G, the next iteration of mobile connectivity, will be up to 100 times faster than today's networks and capable of supporting up to 100 times more devices. This will have a dramatic impact on both Americans and Tennesseans making our lives better and safer and our businesses more efficient and our economic climate more competitive.

New technology demands require a streamlined and consistent process to deploy the next generation of wireless networks, to ensure Tennessee is primed to be one of the first in line to receive the economic and civic benefits of 5G. Technology that is essential as more of us cut the cord and rely solely on our mobile devices. Over the past two years, Americans used 238 percent more wireless data, and that trend isn't slowing any time soon. We need to enhance our networks to meet today's demands.

New research from Accenture tells us now is the time to act in estimating that Smart Cities technology, and 5G investments will impact the Tennessee economy in the form of nearly 18,000 new jobs, \$3 billion in GDP growth and \$1 billion in local government savings. Tennesseans want and deserve these opportunities.

But to make this a reality the legislature must enact technology friendly policies that allow for the efficient and expedient deployment of small cells. Luckily, Sen. Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro, and Rep. William Lamberth, R-Cottontown, are leading the way with the introduction of legislation to address this problem.

We've done great work and can't risk getting left behind now. Twelve other states have already enacted legislation that puts them in position to benefit from the \$275 billion dollars the wireless industry is going to invest to deploy 5G over the next seven years.

As one of the best governed states in the nation, Tennessee is a state of leaders and doers and by passing statewide legislation to streamline small cell deployment, we'll show the rest of the country what we already know. We're ready. – **Nashville Tennessean**; also in the **Tennessean**, [FCC Chairman Ajit Pai visits state to promote rural broadband](#)



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