



**Testimony of  
ANNISSA REED  
CTIA**

**In Support of  
Rhode Island House Bill 7256**

**Before the  
Rhode Island House Committee on Finance**

**May 2, 2024**

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 7256, which would update existing sales and use tax statutes by exempting broadband equipment from these taxes. Currently, we are benefiting from a federal investment aimed at bridging the digital divide in some of the nation's most underserved areas. Rhode Island has been awarded \$108.7 million in federal funding to bolster broadband infrastructure. Rhode Island has an opportunity to ensure that all of these federal funds - and the additional private sector investment that will be leveraged by that federal funding - go directly into broadband networks that benefit residents and businesses in the state. Furthermore, because the federal funds will be targeted to rural and underserved areas, it is important to note that businesses and residents in those areas of the state would benefit most from the enactment of this legislation.

We all know that investment in high-speed broadband networks has become every bit as important as investments in highways and other infrastructure. As Rhode Island competes with other states to attract and grow businesses, it is critical that the vital communications infrastructure to support this growth is deployed throughout the state so that all regions can



**benefit. This legislation, by lowering the cost of investment and attracting new communications network investments, will help ensure that Rhode Island continues to grow economically.**

**For these reasons, CTIA supports H 7256 and respectfully requests its passage.  
Thank you for your consideration.**