



SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Proponent Testimony of Charter Communications Operating, LLC
In Favor of SB 57 – Facility Relocation Reimbursement

February 5, 2025

Presented by:
Dayton Murty, Senior Manager of State Government Affairs

Honorable Chairman Fagg, Vice Chair Petersen, and Ranking Member Francisco:

It is my honor to appear before you on behalf of Charter Communications. We do business in Kansas under the brand name “Spectrum,” and serve 118,000 Kansas customers in 25 communities. We employ over 850 Kansans and invested over \$37 million in private capital last year to connect an additional 3,000 Kansans to the rest of the world through internet, television, and voice services.

SB57 ensures that any project which requires the relocation of utility facilities, including communications facilities, which is funded through state or federal dollars, reimburses the owner of such facility for the cost of its relocation. The bill also ensures parity of treatment among utilities, broadband, cable, and other providers using the rights-of-way in connection with forced relocation caused by highway, roadway, and street improvement projects funded with state or federal dollars.

If the relocation of a utility facility is required to complete a project, that relocation must be considered part of the project. Therefore, the cost of the relocation should be budgeted for as a cost of the project and reimbursed to the affected utility facility owner accordingly.

Forcing utility providers to pay the costs of relocation when they have no control over the project plans, if the relocation is going to be required, or the number of relocations that could be required in a certain community, negatively impacts Kansas consumers.

These forced relocations drastically and unpredictably increase the costs to do business in the state, which could take money away from other planned expansion or infrastructure enhancements.

SB57 recognizes these points and requires the projects that necessitate these utility facility relocations to plan accordingly. For these reasons, we support SB 57 and would urge you to recommend the bill favorable for passage to the Senate.

Thank you, Chairman and members of the Committee, for your consideration of our request and SB57.