

March 12, 2012

Senator Eileen M. Daily
Co-Chair, Joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Patricia M. Widlitz
Co-Chair, Joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3704
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Andrew Roraback
Ranking Member, Joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Sean Williams
Ranking Member, Joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chairs Daily and Widlitz and Ranking Members Roraback and Williams:

On behalf of CTIA-The Wireless Association and its member companies, including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, TracFone Wireless, and Verizon, I write in support of SB 354, legislation before your committee that addresses what the wireless industry believes is a very important 911 issue – the fair and efficient collection of 911 fees from prepaid wireless users. SB 354 would codify national model legislation for collection of 911 fees on prepaid wireless service at the point of sale and ensure that all users of wireless service contribute to the maintenance and operation of the Connecticut 911 system.

Recognizing in 2009 that the current prepaid collection system was not functioning well or sustainable, the wireless industry engaged legislators, retailers and public safety representatives to develop a national legislative model to collect E911 fees directly from prepaid wireless consumers. This partnership resulted in the endorsement by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Committee Task Force on State and Local Taxation of Telecommunications and Electronic Commerce of model legislation requiring E911 fees to be collected on prepaid wireless services at the retail point-of-sale. Key elements of the model legislation include:

Imposition at Retail Point-of-Sale – The fee is collected at the point of sale by the retailer when the service is sold to the customer.

Utilizing the Existing Sales Tax Collection Processes – Retailers use the existing processes and rules governing the collection of sales taxes on prepaid service.

For the reasons highlighted above, we encourage the Committee to pass point-of-sale legislation (SB 354) and thereby install a collection methodology from prepaid wireless consumers that benefits public safety throughout the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Keegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gerard Keegan
Director, State Legislative Affairs