



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 661		DATE: 2/11/2025
COMMITTEE: Transportation		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CADE TREMAIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 428 E. CAPITOL AVENUE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID STOKES		PHONE NUMBER: 314-454-0647	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SHOW-ME INSTITUTE		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL POLICY	
ADDRESS: 5297 WASHINGTON PLACE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: david.stokes@showmeinstitute.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:01 AM	

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TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE: My name is David Stokes, and I am director of municipal policy at the Show-Me Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Missouri-based think tank that supports free-market solutions for state and local policy. The ideas presented are my own. House Bill 661 (HB 661) requires governments in Missouri to compensate telephone, internet, and cable (telecom) companies for the cost of moving their equipment in the right-of-way (ROW) during road projects. Traditional utilities, including gas, water, and electrical companies, are allowed to recover the costs of moving their equipment for road projects during the rate-setting process with the Missouri Public Services Commission (PSC). Telecom companies are not regulated in the same manner by the PSC (nor should they be), and therefore are not compensated for the cost of moving their equipment for road projects and other infrastructure improvements. This is an issue that deserves a fair debate. In instances where telecom agencies pay governments for the ROW access, telecom companies may deserve compensation for relocation expenses. I understand that such circumstances may be limited. More common are cases in which telecoms pay special taxes or fees to certain governments in order to operate within a community. I believe some level of reimbursement for moving costs in these cases is worthy of consideration when the utility in question may not have had an opportunity to negotiate location options with the government in question in a reasonable manner. For state or local governments that do not charge telecom companies for use of the ROW, that do not levy special taxes on the industry, and that provide an opportunity to separately negotiate relocation issues, reimbursements may not be appropriate. HB 661 is an attempt to address an area of reasonable concern for telecom companies. I believe this matter can be addressed by the legislature in a way that properly protects the rights and takes into account the responsibilities of state and local governments, protects the interests of taxpayers, and addresses the reasonable concerns of telecom companies. Hearings like this are an important part of starting this discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DEREK LEFFERT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-8500	
REPRESENTING: GATEWAY FIBER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 275 N SERVICE RD.			
CITY: WRIGHT CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63390
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE SUTHERLAND		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2722 MCCARTY STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: NOEL TORPEY		PHONE NUMBER: 816-674-8444
REPRESENTING: MCTA (THE MO CABLE TELECOMMUNICATION ASSOC.)		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 217 EAST CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ntorpey@hbstrategies.us	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 7:14 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RAY MCCARTY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI	
ADDRESS: 3234 W TRUMAN BLVD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: rmccarty@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 9:08 AM	
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Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill that requires reimbursement from the entity requiring the move to the service provider when a utility must be moved due to road construction or for other reasons.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACY KING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AT&T		TITLE: REG. VP GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:58 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CARA STARK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-9481	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF COLUMBIA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 630 BOLIVAR ST. STE. 201			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-726-4747
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO STL		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT ROAD		
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: pkelly@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:07 PM

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The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis opposes HB 661. The use of public right-of-way (ROW) by private utility companies is a privilege, not a right. If a private companies are allowed to install equipment in a public space, it should be responsible for moving it when necessary for public improvements. Shifting relocation costs to the public sector means taxpayers foot the bill for infrastructure that only benefits the utility companies bottom line. The League believes this would violate the Missouri Constitution by using tax dollars for a private purpose in addition to a Handcock violation by requiring municipalities and Modot to cover these location cost without provide the funding. We hope you will oppose Hb 661 in order to protect taxpayers dollars, maintains municipal financial stability, and prioritizes public infrastructure needs over private corporate interests.



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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA EICHELBERGER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-1458	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2200 MAGUIRE BLVD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: WILL MARRS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-848-8561	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF SPRINGFIELD		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 211 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: govservicesjcmo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:37 PM	

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The City of Springfield operates the right of way for public use, charging a fee for the cost of maintaining the right of way (digging cables, concrete replacement, etc.) and this would interfere with the public right of way maintenance to the benefit of private entities. This would also be a tremendous cost to municipalities with no replacement for the right of way fees collected.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: ZACH POLLOCK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-3210
REPRESENTING: CITY OF LEE's SUMMIT		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1472		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM

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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ERIC SCHROETER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MODOT		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 105 W. CAPITOL		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM
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