



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2711</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Utilities</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANNISSA REED</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-735-7244</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CTIA</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1400 16TH STREET, NW</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON DC</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20005</b>
EMAIL: <b>areed@ctia.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2026 3:35 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Chair Bromley and Members of the House Utilities Committee:

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to express support for House Bill 2711. This bill modernizes Missouri's property tax framework for broadband infrastructure by providing clarity, consistency, and a more competitive environment for ongoing network investment.

HB 2711 establishes a clear classification for broadband communications equipment and lowers assessment ratios for equipment placed in service on or after August 28, 2026. This structure provides predictability, allowing broadband providers to plan investments with a clear understanding of future tax obligations. By offering favorable assessment treatment during the early years of deployment, HB 2711 helps improve broadband investment, particularly as providers expand and upgrade networks to meet growing demand.

Broadband providers evaluate where and how to deploy infrastructure based on long-term costs, including property taxes assessed over the useful life of equipment. HB 2711's phased approach recognizes the realities of broadband investment cycles and helps ensure Missouri remains competitive with neighboring states seeking to attract similar investment.

At a time of exploding consumer demand for wireless services, our industry is working hard to deploy and upgrade infrastructure and create jobs and economic growth for Missouri communities. Success in these efforts depends on a tax, fee and regulatory framework that welcomes investment. This predictability fuels economic growth in Missouri, where our industry supports nearly 134,000 jobs and generates \$12.2 billion in state GDP growth.

We appreciate Missouri's efforts to address broadband taxation and respectfully urge the Committee to advance HB 2711.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Annissa Reed**  
Director, State and Local Affairs



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BILL GAMBLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>634-4876</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI BROADBAND PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 1865</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEREK LEFFERT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-280-8590</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>GATEWAY FIBER</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 104853</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65110</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DUSTIN BACKES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-694-1010</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65016</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANIE DUNNING</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2026 7:07 PM</b>	
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**As an individual I support this bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JARED HANKINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3511</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 149</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY KETTERER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-301-5550</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AT&amp;T MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1010 PINE STREET-ROOM 19-W-E-01</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>CA</b>	ZIP: <b>63101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NOEL TORPEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-674-8444</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MCTA (THE INTERNET AND TV ASSOCIATION)</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>217 E CAPITOL AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICK FUCIK</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-687-5548</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>T-MOBILE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>6204 BRIDLE BEND DRIVE</b>		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>patrick.r.fucik@t-mobile.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2026 9:59 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**T-Mobile supports HB 2711 and encourages the passage of the bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY MCCARTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rmccarty@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 9:20 AM</b>	
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<b>Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRENT WATSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-606-0141</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 2221</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>trent@trentwatson.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 8:38 AM</b>	
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In support



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>W. SCOTT SWAIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-8138</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>VERIZON</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>104 CLAY STREET</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KENNETH MOHR</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-819-2258</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI STATE ASSESSOR's ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>801 E. WALNUT RM 143</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2026 8:49 AM</b>	
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**OPPOSE.**

HB 2711 creates an unconstitutional preferential tax classification, shifts local tax burdens without voter consent, and invites uniformity and equal-protection challenges under Missouri law.

**LEGAL DEFECTS**

**1. Violates Missouri’s Uniformity Requirement (Article X, §3).**

HB 2711 carves out “machinery and equipment used to provide broadband communications service” into a favored subclass assessed at a reduced rate, without a constitutionally sufficient distinction grounded in use, necessity, or public ownership. Missouri’s Constitution requires taxation to operate uniformly upon the same class of property. This bill invents a class defined by industry identity, not property characteristics, which Missouri courts have repeatedly rejected as non-uniform taxation.

**2. Creates a De Facto Tax Exemption Without Voter Approval (Article X, §§6 & 22).**

By lowering assessment ratios for broadband equipment while leaving local levies intact, HB 2711 functions as a partial exemption. The Missouri Constitution requires strict procedural safeguards and voter approval for exemptions or reductions that materially affect tax burdens. This bill bypasses those safeguards entirely.

**3. Shifts the Tax Burden to Local Taxpayers and Schools Without Authority.**

Reduced assessments for broadband infrastructure necessarily shift the levy burden onto:  
 residential real property,  
 small businesses, and  
 other tangible personal property subclasses.

This violates long-standing Missouri precedent prohibiting legislative reallocation of local tax burdens without clear constitutional authorization.

**4. Overbroad and Indeterminate Definitions Invite Arbitrary Enforcement.**

The bill’s definition of broadband equipment includes “any successor-technology items” and virtually

all central-office and network hardware.

This language:  
lacks limiting principles,  
invites inconsistent assessments across counties, and  
guarantees administrative appeals and equal-protection claims.

**5. No Fiscal Guardrails, No Accountability, No Public Purpose Findings.**

HB 2711 contains:  
no revenue impact cap,  
no clawback or performance requirement,  
no service-expansion mandate, and  
no prohibition on passing tax savings to shareholders instead of consumers.

Absent a defined public return, preferential treatment fails constitutional scrutiny

If enacted, HB 2711 is vulnerable to immediate challenge on:  
Uniformity grounds (Art. X, §3)  
Unlawful exemption / reduction (Art. X, §§6, 22)  
Equal protection under Missouri Constitution  
Arbitrary and capricious administration  
Counties, school districts, or taxpayers would have standing.

HB 2711 is not neutral tax administration. It is industry-specific tax favoritism enacted at the expense of local governments and taxpayers, in direct tension with Missouri's constitutional limits on taxation.

The bill should be rejected.

At minimum, it requires constitutional justification, voter approval mechanisms, and enforceable public-benefit conditions—none of which are present.

**CONSTITUTIONAL FOOTNOTES**

Mo. Const. art. X, §3 — Uniformity of taxation

Mo. Const. art. X, §6 — Tax exemptions strictly construed

Mo. Const. art. X, §22 — Hancock Amendment (tax limitation & voter consent)