

Dear Chair James and members of the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on H.527 relating to extending the sunset of 30 V.S.A. § 248a. Our comments will be pretty short and sweet.

The smaller RLECs (Rural Local Exchange Carriers) don't typically use the 248a process as it is more geared toward the wireless industry, but we believe it is good to have the option in the future. While the 248a process isn't typically used on the wireline side we believe it provides a predictable, streamlined process and clarity for both communities and applicants as the demand for and use of wireless communication services continues to grow here in Vermont. Therefore, we would support H.527 extending the sunset another three years, or if appropriate, making it longer or more permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best,

Jonathan Wolff

On behalf of members of the Telephone Association of Vermont which consists of the following members:

Franklin Telephone Company

Ludlow Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Northfield Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Perkinsville Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Shoreham Telephone LLC d/b/a GoNetspeed

Topsham Telephone Company, Inc.

Vermont Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a VTel

Waitsfield-Champlain Telephone Co., d/b/a Waitsfield Telecom d/b/a Champlain Valley Telecom