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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 18, 2025

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**Senate committee unanimously clears wireless infrastructure bill**

SANTA FE –This afternoon, the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee passed by a 9-0 vote a proposal to allow state agencies to have wireless towers on their properties--a move that would also directly provide sustainable 5G cellular service to nearby constituents.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion’s (OBAE) bill, [SB 164](#), will enable state entities to install the wireless towers. OBAE Acting Director **Drew Lovelace** testified before the committee alongside Senate Majority Whip Michael Padilla, the bill’s sponsor.

“This wireless infrastructure bill is something that’s long overdue to ensure cellular access in such places as state parks and historic state landmarks,” said **Lovelace**. “Many state properties and neighboring regions have no reliable 5G service, and this legislation would offer critical communications, particularly in emergencies.”

Currently, municipalities and counties have the authority to install wireless towers on city or county land. OBAE wants to change the definition of the word “authority” in the law to include the state agencies.

The wireless infrastructure bill, SB 164, would expand the Wireless Consumer Advanced Infrastructure Investment Act to entitle state entities to install 5G wireless towers. The Act established provisions for the deployment of cellular network nodes in public rights of way.

“This bill is a win-win for New Mexicans,” said **Lovelace**. “Broadband service would not only be available at the state properties, but rural residents in the immediate areas will get connected.”

The goal of new towers is to have them be 5G network compatible, the latest wireless network that generates faster speeds and greater bandwidth.

The legislation now heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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*The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE’s mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state’s rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.*