Dear NYSWA Member:

Have you ever wondered how many wireless professionals actually work in New York State? And just how much tax revenue does the State and its thousands of municipalities generate from the mobile sector? Can the amount of private and public capital invested in wireless infrastructure over the past few years be quantified? What trends can be expected for our industry going forward?

These are all important questions NYSWA has been asked from time to time by state and municipal government leaders as a measure of our industry’s ongoing contributions to the economic health of New York. As we researched the questions and collaborated with others including New York State’s Empire State Development and the New York State Broadband Program Office, it became apparent that detailed state economic facts regarding the mobile industry were simply not available. So, in late 2013, NYSWA commissioned an independent assessment of the economic impact the commercial wireless communication sector has on New York’s economy.

Kent Gardner, Chief Economist at Center for Government Research, Inc., (“CGR”) www.cgr.org, a not–for-profit based in Rochester NY, completed the study for NYSWA in June 2014. The report is based on the latest figures available and identifies the following positive impacts of the industry in New York State:

• In New York alone, there were about 21 million wireless subscribers in 2012, nearly 4 times the 5.4 million in 2000.
• Total employment for the wireless sector in New York State is estimated at about 60,000, with a combined payroll of $5.1 billion.
• Public and private investment in communications infrastructure in New York for the four year period of 2008-2012 exceeded $2 billion.
• The wireless industry is responsible for nearly $2.4 billion in taxes to New York State and local governments.

Click here for a printable “Quick Facts” overview of the CGR study.

Nationally, PCIA and Information Age Economics (IAE) have calculated that the GDP impact will be $1.2 trillion by 2017 and be associated with 1.2 million jobs. So how does the mobile future look in New York?
Well, we already know from NYSWA’s over 4,000 members that wireless investment in New York for 2013 and 2014 was robust and steady. The ongoing demand for wireless services and technological innovation has stimulated sustained investment in macro-cell sites, in-building distributed antennas systems, and small cells. Simply put private investment in wireless networks across New York State continues to grow, thanks in no small part to all of you, the entrepreneurial leaders of our industry.

As we look ahead to 2015, NYSWA will continue its mission to partner with local and state leaders, educate the public about the benefits of wireless services and advocate for policies that accelerate the provision of mobile broadband service to households across the State of New York. As a member of NYSWA, I invite you to reach out to me, our leadership or any committee chair to help advance your business in New York. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and on behalf NYSWA, thank you for your continued contributions to New York’s economy!

Sincerely,

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